Bodily Fluid Cleanup
UW Superior Bloodborne Pathogens Program, 2013

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). All occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) place workers at risk for infection with bloodborne pathogens. The bodily fluids of greatest concern are:

- Human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.
- Any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood,
- All body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids;
- Other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) including semen, vaginal secretions, fluids from around the heart, lungs, brain or spinal cord, joints, abdominal cavity, amniotic fluid, and saliva in dental procedures

**Bodily Fluid Cleanup Procedure**

Only individuals who have completed Level 1 or 2 Bloodborne Pathogen training are certified to clean up bodily fluid spills or releases, manage sharps, or manage infectious wastes

**Call for assistance.** If the spill is within a building, contact the building custodian before attempting to clean up the spill.

**Isolate the spill** and protect others by keeping people out of the area of the spill. Cover/protect the spill area using barriers such as chairs, wet floor signs, locking the room door, etc.

**Prepare:** Gather supplies and tools needed to clean up the spill such as paper towels, mops and buckets, absorbents, disinfectants, trash bags, boom and dustpan, tongs to remove sharp items.

**Protect** your body using personal protective equipment (PPE). Gloves must always be worn. Eye protection is necessary whenever droplets, sprays, splatter or splashes may occur. If splashing may occur or if dried caked blood is present wear eye, nose and mouth protection such as a surgical mask and safety glasses. Other conditions may dictate more protection: such as a gown, shoe covers, apron, face shield if there is a greater splash or contact risk.

**Pickup** sharp items (e.g. broken glass or syringes) using a tool. Place in a sharps container.

**Absorb** the liquid with an absorbent, such as a granular absorbent or paper towels. For larger spills such as vomit, a mop and bucket may be needed.

**Sanitize** the area using a tuberculocidal disinfectant. Two products are available: EndBac aerosol for hard surfaces and Virex/Virex II concentrate for use in mop buckets. Follow the product instructions for tuberculocidal activity including the appropriate contact time. Do not use bleach as it may cause a dangerous reaction with other cleaning products.

**Cleanup:** Disinfect all tools/equipment used for cleanup, such as mop handles, mop heads, the outside of the aerosol can, any scrapers or dustpans, etc.

**Waste Disposal** (See the Waste Management Guidelines). Bag all solid wastes in the appropriate bag and then double bag and tie shut. If red-bag waste was created, place the bag in a secure location, such as a locked custodial room. Notify the custodian of the waste’s location and provide include your name and contact information with the wastes for questions. Liquid wastes should be disposed of in a custodial sink or toilet.

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**Remove PPE:** Remove PPE in this order to prevent contaminating yourself: first remove the gown/apron/shoe covers if used, then gloves, followed by eyes/nose/mouth protection. Place all used PPE into a trash bag and place in the dumpster for disposal. Wash your hands immediately after removing the gloves or use hand sanitizer. If using hand sanitizer, wash your hands as soon as possible.

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**Blood / Body Fluid Waste Management Guidelines**

Always use Universal Precautions during all bodily fluid cleanups by treating body fluids as if they may contain bloodborne pathogens. Even though bloodborne pathogens may not be present, other contagious viruses or bacteria should be anticipated, such as influenza, noroviruses, colds, mumps, measles etc.

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<tr>
<th>Type of Waste</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Management</th>
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| **Human blood, or anything that contains visible traces of blood or OPIM (Saturated)** | Items that contain a lot of blood (saturated) are regulated as infectious wastes and require special disposal practices. They are commonly described as: 1. Anything that blood can drip from, be poured from or easily squeezed from (i.e. pourable, drippable, squeezeable). 2. Items caked with dried blood that could release when handled. Examples: saturated bandages, bulk liquid blood, body tissues, bath towels caked with dried blood. | • Solid wastes – place items in a Red Bag (Biohazard Bag) and tie shut.  
• Free Liquids: Sewer  
All RED BAG wastes must be managed as infectious wastes with ultimate disposal in an infectious waste landfill. DO NOT PLACE IN the normal trash. Secure in a locked area such as a custodial closet until pickup. |
| **Human blood, or anything that contains visible traces of blood or OPIM (Not Saturated)** | Items that contain small amounts of blood and are not saturated (i.e. are not “pourable, drippable or squeezeable”) are not regulated as infectious wastes. Examples: Unsaturated blood-stained bandages, gauze, or cotton balls, used feminine hygiene products, most clean up materials such as towels, gowns, gloves. | • Free Liquids: Sewer  
• Solid Wastes: Double bag in a normal trash bag and tie shut. Place in dumpster.  
Note: RED BAGS are NOT permitted in the dumpster. |
| **Any body fluid that is difficult to determine whether or not it contains blood** | Follow the appropriate procedures listed for “Blood, or anything that contains visible traces of blood or OPIM” | Use the appropriate disposal method identified for the “Blood, or anything that contains visible traces of blood or OPIM” situation |
| **Vomit, urine, feces with no visible traces of blood** | Vomit, urine and feces without traces of blood are unlikely to transmit bloodborne pathogens, but may transmit illnesses such as influenza or the norovirus that causes diarrhea. Use Universal Precautions during cleanup. Not regulated as infectious wastes. | • Free Liquids: Sewer  
• Solid wastes: Double bag in a normal trash bag. Place in dumpster. |
| **Sharps** | Sharps are regulated infectious wastes. All syringes should have self-sheathing needles and disposed of in a sharps container. Examples: lancets, syringes, broken glass, needles, razor blades, pen needles, scalpel blades, dental wires, and disposable razors. | Use an approved Sharps container with a biohazard symbol. Secure the full container in a locked area such as a custodial closet until pickup. |
| **Contaminated Laundry** | Any re-usable clothing or towels that have been contaminated by blood. Examples: bath towels, uniforms, personal clothing. | Minimize handling. Separate/bag contaminated items at the point of generation. Wash/dry using the hottest temperatures the fabric can tolerate |