

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

OFNS FAQs:

Bloodborne Pathogen FAQs for OFNS

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Bloodborne Pathogens Compliance

1. What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

Bloodborne pathogens are micro-organisms that are present in human blood and can cause bloodborne diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria. These pathogens are spread via:

- a. Blood.
- b. Through body fluids which are visibly contaminated with blood. These include tears, feces, urine, nasal secretions, sputum, saliva, sweat and vomit; and
- c. Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM). The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures.

2. Is there a law that the DOE must observe?

Yes. The federal Bloodborne Pathogens Standard is cited as 29 CFR 1910.1030. This regulation is enforced by the New York State Department of Labor, Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau (PESH). Each school principal must develop a program to protect employees who have occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM).

Regional Supervisor

3. What is my Regional Supervisor’s role in complying with the regulation?

In addition to regular school-related duties, your supervisor is working to ensure that your region follows the bloodborne pathogens regulations. Supervisors are required to complete the following tasks:

- a. Complete annual bloodborne pathogens training
- b. Are offered the hepatitis B vaccine
- c. Respond to the hepatitis B vaccine offer
- d. Are released from their job duties to receive all three doses of the hepatitis B vaccine without charge to their Cumulative Absence Reserve (CAR)
- e. Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- f. Correctly document blood borne pathogen exposures
- g. Keep records

Training

4. Why did I receive an email saying that I have an exposure risk to Bloodborne pathogens?

You received that email because the job tasks you perform as per your assignment at the DOE may place you at risk for exposure to blood and body fluids. Certain body fluids can cause

bloodborne pathogen diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Employees with work related risk of exposure are required to receive annual bloodborne pathogens training as well as an offer to receive the Hepatitis B vaccine at no cost.

5. Which employees in my school have exposure risks?

Some job titles have risk due to their expected job tasks; these include School Nurses, SESAs, Principals, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists, and District 75. These employees have the highest risk and are placed in Category A.

Other employees may perform tasks considered risky sometimes. These employees are placed into Category B. These tasks include:

- a. OFNS Kitchen staff, who clean and disinfect surfaces which may have been contaminated with blood and/or potentially infectious materials.
- b. Designated first-aid/CPR response.
- c. Routine health care, for example: Health Paraprofessionals and 1:1 Paraprofessionals.
- d. Provide bathroom care including Universal Pre-K staff - may also include D79 LYFE staff
- e. Speech Therapists who manipulate students' mouths.
- f. Adaptive Physical Education Teachers who engage with physical contact with students.
- g. School Aides who work with the developmentally disabled; and
- h. Substitute Paraprofessional

6. How do I get trained?

All OFNS Kitchen Staff need to complete annual training. Training can be completed using the following methods:

- a. Use the link in the email you received. you can access the webinar here: www.learningtimes.net/bbp. You will need your 7-digit Reference ID number (from the pay stub) and **not** your File number. If you have a 6-digit number, add a 0 to the front to make it a 7-digit number. If you do not know your Reference ID number, contact your SESA. Once you have finished, you will receive an email within 24 hours with a training certificate. The training is available 24/7.
- b. As an alternative, follow your manager's instructions to participate in a group training course where you view the webinar with a group of employees. You will be asked to sign an attendance sheet. 24 hours after your supervisor updates your training record, you will receive an email with your training certificate. Until your training completed has been credited, you will continue to receive training reminder emails.
- c. The training takes approximately 45 minutes.

7. I am having problems accessing the webinar with Learning Times

<http://www.learningtimes.net/bbp>

Possible Reasons for Access problems:

- a. Are you using your cell phone to access the webinar? This course is only accessible via a Windows, Mac, or iPad platform, but not on your cell phone.
- b. Are you trying to log in with your File number? The system only recognizes the Reference ID number from your pay stub. If you have a 6-digit number, add a 0 in front making it a 7-digit number.
- c. Do you have an active schools.nyc.gov email account? You will not be able to log in until you have been assigned an active DOE email address.
- d. Did you receive an email in your schools.nyc.gov account to complete training? If you did not receive a DOE email to complete the training, then you will not be able to access the webinar.
- e. Are you experiencing technical issues? Contact BBPquestions@schools.nyc.gov and provide a brief description of the problem with a screenshot of any issue you encounter.
- f. Are you experiencing internet access problems? Contact the IT Service Desk at 718-935-5100 or <https://supporthub.schools.nyc/request>

8. I completed the training in February this year, do I have to take the training again this year?

Yes. Annual training must be completed between September and June each year.

9. Can I complete the training after my shift or on the weekend?

Yes. The training can be done 24/7

10. I just completed the training, why didn't I get a certificate?

Once your supervisor updates your training record, you will receive an email with your training certificate within 24 hours. Until you have been credited, you may continue to receive training reminder emails.

Hepatitis B Vaccination

11. Who can get the hepatitis B vaccine?

Once employees with work-related risk i.e., Kitchen staff who have completed the training, they are eligible to receive the hepatitis B vaccine at no cost. You will receive an emailed offer 24 hours after you complete your training. You may accept or decline but you must respond to the offer.

12. I just finished my training; why did I not get a hepatitis B vaccine offer?

Employees who completed their training via LearningTimes and have not been vaccinated, will receive an emailed vaccine offer 24 hours after training completion. Employees who participate

in group training at the school will receive the offer 24 hours after your supervisor has updated your training records.

13. I accepted the hepatitis B vaccine, but now I have changed my mind.

Once you have completed the BBP training, you will receive a vaccine offer. To view your vaccination status, click here <https://www.nycenet.edu/bbp/>. To discontinue the vaccine series, please email BBPquestions@schools.nyc.gov with your request.

14. Is it mandatory that I take the hepatitis B vaccine?

No. Once you are eligible, the DOE must offer you the vaccine, but accepting or declining is your choice. If you remain at work-related risk, you can change your mind even if you have previously declined the vaccine. You can change your decision here:

<https://www.nycenet.edu/bbp/>

15. How often should I get the hepatitis B vaccine?

The hepatitis B vaccine is administered in 3 doses over a 6-month period. Even if the schedule is interrupted, you can continue with the next dose in the series. The vaccine provides long term immunity and booster shots are administered with a physician's recommendation. **Please note that the hepatitis B vaccine only offers protection against Hepatitis B disease. It does not provide protection against COVID 19.**

16. Where can I get the hepatitis B vaccine?

The hepatitis B vaccine is administered by licensed health care professionals. You will receive an email with options to arrange the Hepatitis B vaccine. The options currently available include NYC DOH Health Clinics and private physician

17. Do I need to take time off to receive the hepatitis B vaccine?

No. Employees must be given time off from their duties to receive the vaccine. No charges must be made to your CAR, sick or vacation bank.

My BBP Compliance Status

18. How can I see information about my bloodborne pathogen's compliance status?

Use this link, <https://www.nycenet.edu/bbp/> to view your information on the Staff Home Page:

- a. Your current risk status.
- b. The name of your Supervisor
- c. Your dates of training.
- d. Your training certificates for the last 3 years (if applicable).
- e. Your vaccination status.
- f. Your vaccination records.

- g. All BBP email communication; and
- h. Report a Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Incident

Additional Resources

19. Health and Safety Bulletin Board

Each school should have a dedicated Health and Safety Bulletin Board where employees can view pertinent information on health and safety issues. For bloodborne pathogens, the following items should be posted:

- a. The Site-Specific Exposure Control Plan.
- b. [The Standard Universal Precautions poster](#).
- c. [The Protect Yourself poster](#).
- d. [Smart Work Practices fact sheet](#).
- e. [Bloodborne Pathogens Facts for Employees with Risk](#) fact sheet.
- f. Cleaning Schedule for change and medical rooms

20. Resources Information

- [Hepatitis B Information](#)
- [Hepatitis C Information](#)
- [Hepatitis B Vaccine](#)
- [Living with HIV](#)
- [HIV PEP](#)