

Standard Precautions for Blood-borne Transmission



What is blood-borne transmission?

Blood-borne transmission means that a disease is spread when the blood of an infected person reaches the bloodstream of another person.

What are the Standard Precautions for blood-borne transmission?

Standard Precautions are what you should do to practice basic infection control against blood-borne diseases. Remember Standard Precautions apply to all your patients no matter what their diagnosis – even if they do not seem sick.

Standard Precautions include:

- Wash your hands after touching body fluids or contaminated items – even if you were wearing gloves
- Wash your hands whenever you remove a pair of gloves
- Wash your hands between patients
- Wear gloves whenever you touch blood, body fluids or contaminated items
- Put on clean gloves before you touch a patient's broken skin or mucous membranes
- Change gloves between tasks and patients
- Wear a gown to protect your skin and clothing from body fluids
- Remove a dirty gown as soon as possible and then wash your hands
- Wear a mask and eye protection to protect your mucous membranes from body fluids
- Keep your work environment as clean as possible by cleaning up spills and patient care areas promptly