

Regulatory Definitions

Below are some terms that you must know. Please keep in mind that these are regulatory definitions, not necessarily common dictionary definitions.

Standard Precautions

The premise of Standard Precautions is that all human blood, blood products, and body fluids are contaminated. You should **always** handle materials using appropriate safety precautions and good work practices. This is also known as **Universal Precautions**.

Human Blood

Blood, blood components, and products made from human blood

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM)

These are any other fluids that can be potentially contaminated. Other examples are: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, and amniotic fluid.

OPIM also refers to:

- Unfixed human tissue or organs
- Cells, tissues, or organ cultures containing HIV, HBV, or HCV
- Culture medium containing HIV, HBV, or HCV
- Blood, organs, etc. from animal with HIV, HBV, or HCV or other bloodborne pathogens
- **All** human body fluids that are undetermined nature or where blood is present are also considered to be an OPIM.

Occupational Exposure

Reasonably anticipated contact with human blood or other potentially infectious material that may result from the normal performance of an employer's job duties

Contamination

Human blood or OPIM on a surface, clothes, equipment, etc.

Decontamination

To make surfaces and equipment safe for handling, use, or disposal, by removing, inactivating, and destroying the infectious material