

OSHA Regulatory Definitions

These are OSHA regulatory definitions used in the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

Contamination

Contamination refers to anything soiled with Human Blood, OPIM, or BBP's.

Decontamination

Decontamination refers to making surfaces and equipment safe for being handled or used, and disposed of by removing, inactivating, and destroying the infectious material.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM)

OPIM are any other fluids that could be potentially contaminated. OPIM includes:

- Unfixed human tissue or organs
- Cells, tissues, or organ cultures containing HIV, HBV, or HCV
- Culture medium containing HIV, HBV, or HCV
- Animal specimens (blood, organs, etc.) with HIV, HBV, HCV, or other BBP
- Untested human body fluids that potentially contain blood

Other examples: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, and amniotic fluid.

Primary Containment

Primary Containment refers to engineering controls (e.g., BSC, sharps containers, and centrifuge safety cups) acting as a primary barrier limiting the infectivity of a pathogen for specific hosts, or its dissemination and survival in the environment.

Universal Precautions

Universal Precautions is the premise that all human blood, blood products, and body fluids are affected by BBP contamination. You should always handle materials using the appropriate controls and precautions.