

Bloodborne Pathogens in Commercial/Industrial Environments

<https://api.succeedms.com/v1/training/4d6807be-8309-4f0e-a02f-4795d20e83ed/1>

Protection against exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials is an important part of workplace safety. During our normal activities, most of us are occasionally exposed to the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph) and Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). However, infection and illness can be combatted by proper hygiene.

Staph and MRSA

- Staph is a bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of 25% – 30% of healthy people.
- MRSA encompasses types of staph that are resistant to certain antibiotics. They are present on or in about 1% of healthy people.
- Unless staph enters the body through a cut or other wound, it is generally harmless.
- Staph and MRSA infections frequently occur among people in hospitals and healthcare facilities but can also occur in schools, libraries, stores, daycare centers, and private companies.

Safeguards

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Do not share personal items like uniforms, personal protective equipment (PPE), clothing, and towels.
- Establish cleaning procedures for frequently touched surfaces.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and bandaged until healed.

Symptoms and Treatment

- A minor staph or MSRA infection may look like a pimple or boil and can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage.
- Serious infections may cause headaches, fever, pneumonia, and potentially life-threatening infections in the bloodstream or surgical wounds.
- Many staph skin infections can be treated by draining the abscess or boil and will not require antibiotics.
- Treatment can sometimes require antibiotics as prescribed by a trained healthcare provider.
- If you might have a skin infection, consult a healthcare provider as soon as possible.