



### Instructor Guide

#### Blood-borne Pathogens

##### Topic Overview (why the topic is important to the students)

Hair stylists can be exposed to blood-borne pathogens and therefore need to be aware of how these pathogens are transmitted, how to protect themselves, and how to protect their clients. Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV are blood-borne pathogens. They are only spread through direct contact with the body fluids, particularly blood, of an infected person. They are not spread through casual contact such as hand-shaking, or using the same facilities (toilets, sinks, telephones, dishes). Workers are at risk of infection if infected body fluids come in contact with the tissues lining your eyes, nose, mouth, or with a cut in your skin, or if you are cut with an implement that is contaminated with infected blood.

##### Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** the way that bloodborne diseases are transmitted, and the types of diseases that are of concern.
- **Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out where there may be hazard of bloodborne disease transmission.
- **Distribute** the student handout.
- **Review** the safety tips.
- **Discuss** how bloodborne diseases can occur.
- **Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of bloodborne disease (e.g., disposable equipment, routine sterilization).
- **Make it real.** Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience or use the example below:
  - A hair stylist accidentally nicked a client. After cleaning the small wound without gloves, the stylist remembered that she had a small fresh cut on her finger. She contracted hepatitis C.
- **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns.
- **Discuss** the attitude that “it won’t happen to me”. Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

##### Resources

- Blood borne pathogens in the workplace (Video) WorkSafeBC Library Call number V9
- Controlling Exposure: Protecting Workers from Infectious Disease  
[http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health\\_and\\_safety/by\\_topic/assets/pdf/bk129.pdf](http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/bk129.pdf)