

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS Precautions - Health Care

On this page

[What should I know when employed as a health care worker?](#)

[What personal protection should I wear?](#)

[What precautions should I follow when working with linen?](#)

[What precautions should I follow when performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation?](#)

What should I know when employed as a health care worker?

Consider blood and body fluids from all patients as potentially infective. Refer to [Routine Practices](#) for preventing transmission of bloodborne infectious diseases. Common routes of exposure include punctures from an infected needle or sharp, entry via mucous membranes (e.g., nose, mouth, etc.), and any open wound.

Report immediately suspect fluid exposure, or a needlestick or sharp injury to a designated person or health care professional.

Please also see the OSH Answers document [HIV/AIDS in the Workplace](#) and [Needlestick and Sharps Injuries](#) for more information.

What personal protection should I wear?

Wear gloves:

- When you have open or healing wounds, or skin infections.
- When in contact with blood or body fluids, secretions, excretions or non-intact skin.
- When in contact with surfaces or articles contaminated with blood or body fluids.
- When performing venipuncture or other vascular access procedures.
- When carrying out cleaning or decontamination procedures.

Replace torn or punctured gloves immediately.

Use new gloves for every patient.

Wear protective eyewear, masks or face shields (with safety glasses or goggles) during procedures likely to generate droplets of blood or body fluids.

In general, protective eyewear, masks and clothing are not needed for routine care of AIDS virus-infected persons.

Wear gowns when the splashing of blood or body fluids may occur.

Please see the OSH Answers document [Personal Protective Equipment](#) for more information.

Wash hands:

- Before and after direct patient contact.
- Immediately and thoroughly when contaminated by blood or body fluids.
- After removing gloves.
- After a glove tear or suspected glove leak.
- Before leaving a work area.

The use of gloves does not eliminate the need for hand washing. Hand washing is one of the most important procedures for the prevention of transmission. Please see the OSH Answers document [Hand Washing: Reducing the Risk of Common Infections](#) for more information.

What precautions should I follow when working with linen?

- Handle soiled linen as little as possible.
- Bag soiled linen at that location.
- Transport linen in an impervious bag if the outside of the linen bag is soiled. Process according to healthcare facility policy.
- Do not sort or rinse soiled linen in the patient care area.
- Use personal protective equipment when handling soiled linen.

What precautions should I follow when performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation?

- Use mouthpieces or other ventilation devices for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Avoid direct contact with patients.
- Clean and sterilize equipment before reusing

Disclaimer

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy, currency and completeness of the information, CCOHS does not guarantee, warrant, represent or undertake that the information provided is correct, accurate or current. CCOHS is not liable for any loss, claim, or demand arising directly or indirectly from any use or reliance upon the information.