

Unit 3 - Infection Control

Terminology

1. **Asepsis** - being free of disease-producing microorganisms.
2. **Biohazardous waste** - refers to items that are contaminated with blood, body fluids, or body substances that may be harmful to others.
3. **Bloodborne Pathogens:** Disease causing microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
4. **Contaminated** - dirty, unclean, soiled with germs.
5. **Disinfection** - the process of destroying most, but not all, pathogenic organisms.
6. **Exposure incident** - a mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or sharps-injury contact with blood or potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of an employee's duties.
7. **Fomite** - any object contaminated with germs and able to transmit disease.
8. **Germ** - a microorganism, especially one that causes disease.
9. **Isolation** - an area where the resident with easily transmitted diseases is separated from others.
10. **Medical Asepsis** - the practice used to remove or destroy pathogens and to prevent their spread from one person or place to another person or place, clean technique.
11. **Microorganism** - a living body so small that it can only be seen with the aid of a microscope.
12. **Parasite** - an organism that lives within, upon, or at the expense of another organism or host.
13. **Pathogen** - a microorganism that is harmful and capable of causing an infection.
14. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** - specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard.
15. **(Other) Potentially Infectious Materials (PIM):**
 - human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, and saliva.
 - any tissue or organ (other than intact skin) or tissue or organ cultures.

Terminology (Continued)

16. **Standard Precautions** - 1996 Centers for Disease Control revised procedures to replace Universal Precautions. Contains two tiers of precautions:
 - Standard Precautions are those designed for the care of all residents, regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Standard Precautions include setting up barriers to prevent contact with blood, blood serum derived from body fluids, fluids that contain blood, and any moist body substances.
 - Transmission-Based Precautions are to be used when caring for only those residents who are known or suspected to be infected or colonized with contagious pathogens that can be transmitted by airborne, droplet transmission, or contact with skin or contaminated surfaces.
17. **Sterilize** - to kill all microorganisms including spores.
18. **Virus** - the smallest organism identified using an electron microscope. There are 400 known viruses.