Safety Awareness for Employees — July 2022 Volume 79

S.A.F.E. Newsletter

BLOODBORNE Pathogens

Fun Fact!

Urine, Feces, & Vomit are not considered OPIM, **unless** there is visible **blood** present.

What are Bloodborne Pathogens?

- Microorganisms that are present in blood or **Other Potentially Infectious Material (OPIM)** that can cause disease in humans.
- Examples of Bloodborne Pathogens are HIV, Hepatitis (A,B, &C), and Syphilis.
- OPIM examples are semen, vaginal fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, etc.
- Handwashing, PPE, Safe Procedures, and Safe Needle Handling prevent exposure.

You find a leaky container with bloody fluid: What should you do?

1. Ask for help if you need it! (UAMS Call Center 501-526-0000).
2. Put on appropriate PPE: gown, gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection, as needed.
3. Contain the spill (paper towels or absorbent material).
4. Clean and disinfect with appropriate agent and contact time.
5. Put bloody towels, solidified blood, and soiled PPE in the Red Biohazard Waste.
6. Inform Supervisor & Complete Incident Response, as needed.
7. Wash your hands with soap and water!

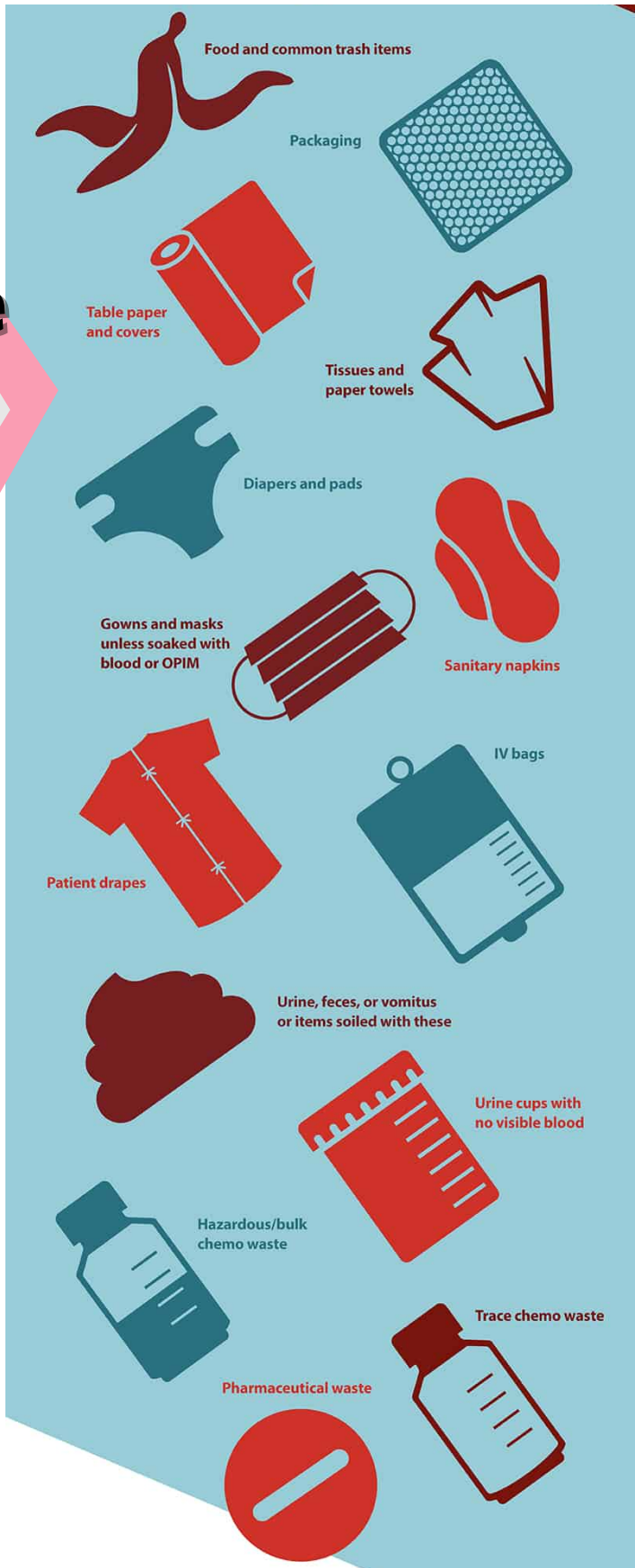
What to do if you encounter BloodBorne Pathogens:

- **Follow UAMS procedures** for safe handling of blood & OPIM and Sharps.
- **Wear Appropriate PPE**, such as gown, gloves, and eye protection.
- **Wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before & after handling infectious material.
- **Clean with Disinfectant** for the appropriate amount of contact time. Example: 10% bleach for 20 minutes.
- **Dispose of Infected Waste** in Red Biohazard Waste Bins.
- **Solidify Liquid Waste**, such as blood, before putting in Red Biohazard Waste Bins.

UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Test Yourself!

Do the items on the left or right go in the Red Biohazard Waste?



Proper waste **segregation** saves money.