

# Body Substance Isolation



**Body Substance Isolation (BSI)**- a form of infection control based on the presumption that all body fluids are infectious. BSI calls for always using appropriate barriers to infection at an emergency scene, such as gloves, goggles, face shields, gowns, and protective eyewear.

## Awareness

For an infection to be transmitted, the blood of the infected person must come in contact with the blood of the person; the virus has to get inside the bloodstream. There is a risk in the following situations

- Pricking, cutting or grazing of the skin with an object soiled with blood/ or bodily fluids
- A bite that breaks the skin
- Contact with open skin lesions (e.g., eczema, sores, chapped skin)
- A microbe comes in contact with a mucous membrane (eyes, lips, mouth, inside of the nose), by splashing

**Treat the blood of every person as infectious Use preventive measures to avoid all contact with blood or biological fluid.**

## Protection

- Wash your hands
- Wear gloves
- Use a one-way valve mask during resuscitation (CPR)
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects soiled with blood
- Clean soiled clothing

Nitrile or latex disposable medical gloves of good quality should be used under the following circumstances:

- When in contact with blood or biological fluids
- When handling soiled objects
- When cleaning soiled surfaces
- Gloves should be changed immediately if they are
- pierced or torn.
- Latex gloves must be changed after 30 minutes of use, because their quality can deteriorate. Disposable gloves must never be



## Disposal



Any soiled blood waste (bandages, paper towels, gloves rags, etc.) must be placed in a plastic bag (preferably with a bio hazard waste symbol) and the bag closed tightly. The bag can then be thrown in the garbage or according to locale protocol.

Any item that has a sharp point (needle etc) should be disposed of in a rigid container and disposed of properly.

**“IF IT’S WET, STICKY AND NOT YOURS  
DON’T TOUCH IT. IF YOU MUST, WEAR  
GLOVES.”**

