



Blood Borne Pathogens

MONTHLY
SAFETY
BRIEF
September 2004
NAF Atsugi



Exposure Hazards: Blood-Borne Diseases

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) - AIDS

HIV destroys the body's natural defenses against a wide range of illnesses and can lead to death. A person infected with HIV may carry the virus for years before developing symptoms. Even though a person may not appear sick, they are still infectious and can transmit the virus to others.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is one of the most serious forms of hepatitis with more than three million new acute cases each year and an estimated one million carriers in the United States. The disease is more prevalent and infectious than AIDS and may lead to cirrhosis and cancer of the liver. Hepatitis B is transmitted by blood or body fluids, sexually, or during birth.

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C (HCV) causes inflammation of the liver. Once called non-A non-B hepatitis, the existence of Hepatitis C was first identified in the mid 1970s. In 1989, the test for specific antibodies to the virus became available, thus permitting routine testing.

