

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today we will talk about what infectious diseases are and how they are transmitted. We will strive to provide you with information that will help you to become a safer and healthier worker.

Infectious diseases are disorders of the human body caused by various pathogenic microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi. They can spread quickly from person to person, and they can grow and multiply once inside their host. When these organisms enter the human body, they can impair a person's health and even cause death.



Epidemics & Pandemics

Some diseases can spread quickly and widely, causing mass illness. When this happens, it is commonly referred to as either an epidemic or pandemic. Epidemics are diseases that have grown out of control in a wide geographic area and affect a high percentage of the population. Pandemics are epidemics that have spread across multiple countries or even the entire world.

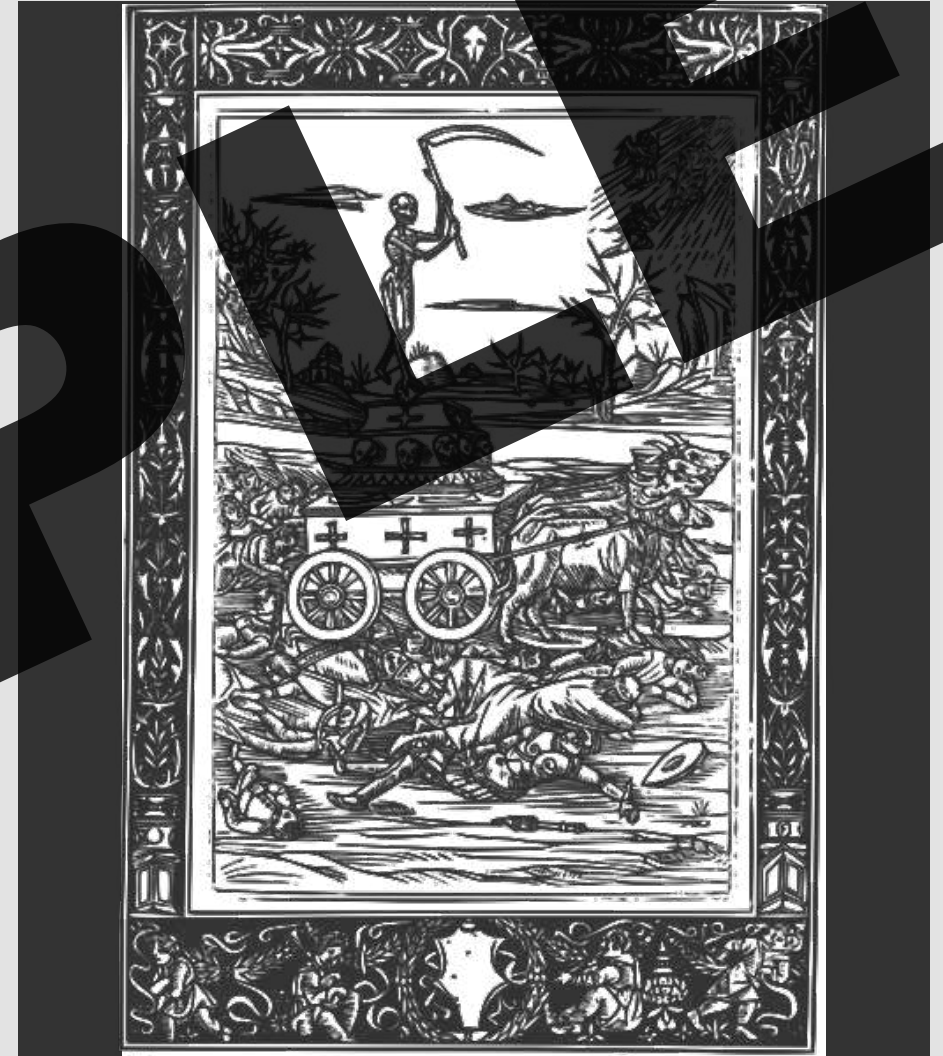


There have been a few pandemics that shaped history. The earliest recorded pandemic dates back to 430 B.C. when a disease suspected to be Typhoid Fever spread throughout Libya, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Athens. It wiped out approximately two-thirds of the population, inevitably leading to their defeat by the Spartans.



Black Death

More recently was the infamous Black Death – also known as the Bubonic Plague – that devastated England and France in 1350. It was spread not only through the air, but also by the bite of infected fleas and rats. One-third of the population died, forcing them to leave dead bodies in the streets to rot.



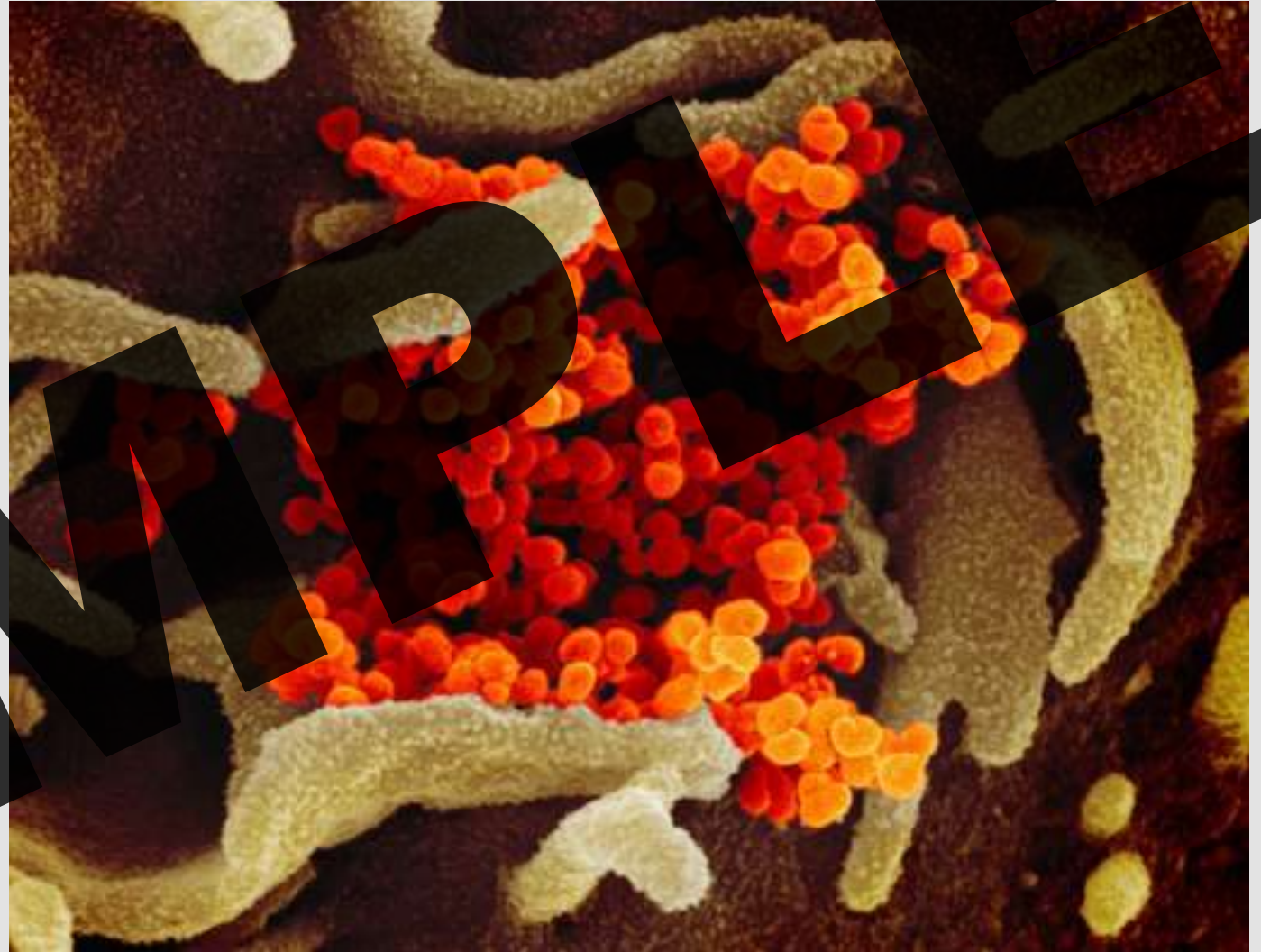
Spanish Flu

In 1918, Spanish Flu infected people throughout Europe, the United States, and parts of Asia before spreading to the rest of the world. The pathogen was born from birds and had no known treatment at the time. By the time it ended, Spanish Flu had caused 50 million deaths worldwide.



COVID-19

Most recently is the Coronavirus outbreak of 2019, which is still fresh in our minds. A new, novel strain of coronavirus barreled through more than 200 countries in three months, infecting nearly 4 million people. We still see the effects of this outbreak, even today.

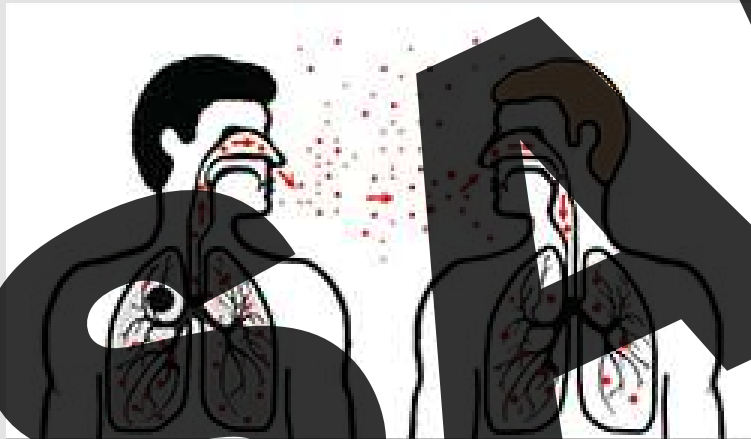


While most diseases will never become pandemics or even epidemics, they can still present a danger to those who contract them. This is why so much effort is put into stopping the spread of disease. Proper precautions can help to keep everyone safe both in the workplace and in their day-to-day lives.





In this training, we will be discussing what disease is and how it is classified. We will also address the ways in which it can be transmitted from person to person and how it infects its hosts.



Additionally, we will talk about some of the ways that you can protect yourself from becoming ill. These methods are not always effective, however, so we will also be discussing diagnosis and treatment for patients who become infected.





STANDARDS

- 29 CFR 1910.1030 – Bloodborne pathogens
- U.S. Department of Labor and OSHA's Infectious Diseases SER Background Document

While OSHA does not have any specific standards on infectious diseases, they have released guidelines that cover exposures which are not expressed in the Bloodborne Pathogens standard, listed above. These guidelines are a regulatory framework for addressing the issue of infectious diseases.



This regulatory framework would cover occupational exposure to various modes of transmission, as well as discuss workplaces and tasks that require enhanced control measures. Furthermore, it would address prevention and response measures such as identification and isolation of infectious cases, immunizations, standard precautions, etc. We will discuss each of these as we move throughout this training.



Why Training?

No matter the situation, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask, “Where does it state we need to be trained?” Can’t a worker also be deemed “qualified” based on experience? The answer is “no.” Experience helps, yes, but OSHA makes it very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they’ve been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing safety training in order to confirm that the employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed for operations.

Initial training and refresher training, as well as any written and practical evaluations, must be documented and filed. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, and so on). These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.



WORKERS MUST RECEIVE REFRESHER TRAINING WHEN...

1. There are changes in their assigned duties.
2. There are changes regarding potential exposure to hazards, for which the employee has not received training.
3. If any deficiency has been noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers.
4. If an accident has occurred, or anytime an employee is injured or nearly injured during operations.

Note: In some areas, refresher training is required at least every three years (if not sooner).

Training is not just a one-and-done occurrence; it is ongoing. In fact, similar to the guidelines set down for when initial training is required, OSHA is also specific when it comes to “refresher training.” More specifically, OSHA acknowledges the need for “refresher” or “follow up” training whenever there is a demonstrated need for it. The graphic to the left shows some demonstrated needs for retraining. Can you think of any others?



The extent of training will be determined by the employer, but at the very least it should include classroom instruction followed by a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.

While an infectious disease may seem intimidating, most of the common diseases are nothing to be afraid of. By utilizing the skills that you will learn in this training, you help to ensure your safety, as well as the safety of others who may be around you.



Definitions

SAMPLE



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HARD HAT
TRAINING SERIES

SAFETY
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES
TRAINING

