



# OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

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## HIV and the Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E, F, and G Viruses

(Part 1) by Allan Zdunich

### Part 1 of 2 on HIV and Hep.

The bloodborne pathogens listed in the title of this article are a threat to us as OFA's. When we come into contact with blood, body fluids or feces (among other bodily material) we are at risk of catching one or more of the above viruses.

First Aid Attendants are out in the field, we are the "front line health care providers". We are where the blood and the guts are, and we are at risk.

When the blood and the guts spill, they spill on us. When an accident happens at work we are there first, and some viruses might be there too.

### The Hospital Protocol

The protocol for protection for blood and other body products have been developed in the clinical or hospital setting where the health care providers are dealing with patients all the time, they are always at risk and therefore always (or almost always) prepared to protect themselves. The patients come to them in the clinical setting where all the personal protection is available for use by the staff. The protocol for maximum protection at all times applies in the hospital because all the equipment is there; it does not apply to first aid.

### The Ambulance Protocol

Emergency Health Services (EHS)

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photo by A. Zdunich

