Needlestick Injury
Risky Business

Needlestick injuries are holes or cuts in the skin caused by needles on accident.

Health care workers, police officers and EMS staff can come in contact with blood through needlestick injuries.

The main blood-borne viruses of concern linked with needlestick injury are:

- HBV: Hepatitis B Virus
- HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- HCV: Hepatitis C Virus

HBV and HCV cause swelling of the liver and can lead to liver cancer. HIV attacks the body's immune system and makes it harder for the body to fight off infections and diseases.

Hepatitis C can survive in dried blood outside of the human body for up to 3 weeks.

After HIV-infected blood has been drawn up into the syringe and flushed out, HIV may survive for up to 4 weeks in syringes.

Sources:
2. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/
3. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/bfaq.htm#overview
4. https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/cfaq.htm#overview