

Dear Perspective Student:

The occupation of dental hygiene has a risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Dental hygienists are among the 5.6 million workers in health care and related occupations who are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious material (OPIM) such as saliva in dental procedures.<sup>1</sup> Dental professionals handle dental scalers, burs, anesthetic needles, and other hazardous materials daily.

The Dental Hygiene Program

Reference

1. Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention. (n.d.). *Occupational Health and Safety Administration*. Retrieved from <https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens>.