



BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

Exposure Control

Lab workers incur risk each time they are exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials. Any exposure incident may result in infection and subsequent illness. Considering the possibility of becoming infected from a single exposure incident, exposure incidents must be prevented whenever possible. The goal of the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard is to reduce the significant risk of infection by:

- eliminating or minimizing occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious material,
- providing the Hepatitis B vaccine, and
- providing post exposure medical evaluation and follow-up.

Exposure Determination

An initial review of lab positions at the University was conducted to determine which employees have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials during the performance of their duties.

Universal Precautions

Universal precautions will be observed by all laboratory workers to prevent contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials. Under circumstances in which differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible, **all body fluids** will be considered potentially infectious.

Universal precautions are accomplished through:

- Engineering controls
- Work practice controls
- Personal protective equipment
- Housekeeping

Engineering and Work Practice

The following engineering and work practice controls shall be in place at University facilities that present potential bloodborne pathogen exposure issues:

- Available handwashing facilities.
- Required handwashing immediately after glove removal or skin exposure to bodily fluid.

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE)

- No re-capping needles.
- Use of puncture resistant sharps containers for needles.
- No eating, drinking, smoking or applying cosmetics in work area where potential for exposure exists.
- No mouth pipetting.
- Proper collection and disposal of potentially infectious material

Personal Protective Equipment

Gloves shall be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that the lab worker may have hand contact with blood other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin.

Masks, in combination with eye protection devices, such as goggles or glasses with solid side shields, or chin-length face shields, shall be worn whenever splashes, spray, spatter, or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and dye nose, or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.

Housekeeping

Laboratories shall ensure that the worksite is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. The Principal Investigator will determine and implement an appropriate written schedule for cleaning and method of decontamination based upon the location within the facility, type of surface to be cleaned, type of soil present, and task or procedures being performed in the area.

Hepatitis B Vaccination and Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow-Up

Hepatitis B vaccine and vaccination series are offered to all employees who have occupational exposure, and post-exposure evaluation and follow-up are required for all employees who have had an exposure incident.

Human Resources will establish and maintain an accurate record for each employee with occupational exposure, in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.20.

Communication of Hazards to Employee

Efforts directed at communicating hazards of bloodborne pathogens to University employees through the use of labels, signs, and information and training are intended to provide lab personnel with adequate warning to eliminate or minimize their exposure. Labels and signs may be obtained through Environmental Health and Safety.

For more information:

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