



Syracuse University Environmental Health and Safety Services

Bloodborne Pathogen Post-Exposure Evaluation and Follow-Up

This procedure provides information for employees who have had an exposure incident involving blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030). An exposure incident includes contact with blood or OPIM through the eyes, mouth, other mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or a puncture wound, such as a needlestick, while performing job duties. Post-exposure evaluation and follow-up are provided at no cost to exposed employees. The incident will be reported following the University's injury, illness, and incident reporting procedures.

In the event of an exposure incident:

1. Stop all work or activities immediately.
2. Remove any contaminated clothing and/or personal protective equipment.
3. Flush exposed body areas thoroughly and wash with mild soap and water. Continue to flush with water for a minimum of fifteen minutes.
4. Contact the Department of Public Safety at 315-443-2224 to report the exposure incident.
5. Remain in a safe place in proximity to the incident while waiting for first responders.

The Department of Public Safety will initiate and coordinate the post-exposure response. The exposed employee will be immediately offered transportation to a local hospital emergency room or the University's designated medical provider to receive a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up performed by or under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.

The medical evaluation and follow-up may include the following:

- When consent is obtained or as the law permits, collection and testing of the source individual's blood to determine HBV and HIV infectivity, if their status is unknown. Results of the source individual's testing will be made available to the exposed employee, and they will be informed of applicable laws and regulations concerning disclosure of the source individual's identity and infectious status.
- Collection and testing of the exposed employee's blood for HBV and HIV serological status. If the exposed employee consents to baseline blood collection but not specific serological testing, their blood sample will be preserved for 90 days.
- Post-exposure prophylaxis when medically indicated and as recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service.
- Counseling.
- Evaluation of reported illnesses.

The exposed employee will be provided with a copy of the healthcare professional's written opinion within 15 days of the completion of a post-exposure evaluation. The health professional's opinion will be limited to the following information, and all other findings or diagnoses will remain confidential and not be included in the written report:

- That the exposed employee has been informed of the results of the evaluation.
- That the exposed employee has been told about any medical conditions resulting from exposure to blood or OPIM which require further evaluation or treatment.