

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Protocol (Revised July 2008)

This protocol applies to all USC Columbia campus employees, student employees and all other USC students who have an exposure to human blood or body fluids.

Exposures through sexual contact are not included in this protocol.

If skin is punctured by a contaminated sharp, or broken skin or mucous membrane is splashed with blood or body fluid, IMMEDIATE personal action is required.

1. If possible, wash or flush the exposed area with soap and/or water immediately.
2. Notify faculty member immediately after step one. If in clinical site, notify charge nurse right away. Complete clinical agency incident report if instructed to do so by charge nurse. **Blood needs to be drawn from the source patient immediately if possible for hepatitis C, Hepatitis B surface antigen, and Stat HIV.** Ask that source patient lab reports results be faxed to Donna Wall 434-8644.
3. *If exposure occurs 8am-4pm,* page Exposure nurse (Donna Wall at Richland Family Practice) at 303-0035. Alternate telephone numbers are: 434-2479 or 434-6116. She will discuss all steps which need to be followed. If instructed, Proceed to 3209 Colonial Drive (Richland Family Practice).
4. *If exposure occurs after hours, on weekends or holidays,* report to the Emergency Department at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital and state that exposure occurred while functioning as an USC student or employee.
5. Faculty members are to notify the Director of Student Affairs at 608-6770. If unable to contact the Director, call the Office of Student Services at 777-7412. The faculty member will be responsible to submit a USC incident report to the Director of Student Affairs by the next working day.

Workers' Compensation covers the following populations who experience a blood borne pathogen exposure while working or at clinical:

- All university employees and apprenticeship students in the Colleges of Education, Exercise Science, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Social Work.
- Work study students and graduate assistants who are exposed while on the job.

Those working in satellite clinics and hospitals outside of Columbia area should familiarize themselves with the site's policies about exposures prior to beginning patient care. If an exposure occurs, call the site's occupational health/infection control nurse or seek treatment at the nearest hospital emergency department if after hours.

All exposure incidents in the clinical agencies and the client-simulated laboratory (CSL) shall be reported, investigated, and documented. If an exposure occurs and there is no faculty present, the student must notify faculty and/or the Office of Student Services as soon as possible.

Students who suffer a **Non-Job Related/Non clinicals related Blood borne Pathogen Exposure** during an enrolled academic session:

- Should report to the Thomson Student Health Center for initial evaluation and referral. If the TSHC is closed, students may seek care at the Palmetto Richland Hospital Emergency Department. If away from Columbia area, the student should report to the nearest hospital emergency department.

16. Post Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up

Following the report of an exposure incident, the university shall make immediately available to the exposed student a confidential medical evaluation, post-exposure evaluation and follow-up. Documentation of the routes of exposure, circumstances under which the exposure incident occurred, and other information related to the exposure incident, shall be addressed by the licensed physician or other licensed healthcare professional who is evaluating the exposure incident.