

Response to Exposure/Accident, Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) for Labs Working with Biohazards

Exposures to: Infectious/biohazardous agent includes microorganisms, viruses, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, biological toxins and other biohazardous materials that may cause disease, adverse health effects or contamination.

Exposures to biohazardous materials include the following:

- Needle-sticks or other percutaneous injuries from a contaminated sharp
- Splashes to mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)
- Inhalation of aerosolized material (large spill outside of a biosafety cabinet, centrifuge tube malfunction, etc.)
- Contact with open wounds, scratches, cuts
- Bites or scratches from infected animals

Accidents include the following:

- Release of BSL-2 or BSL-3 agent from its primary containment/equipment malfunction
- Environmental release such as a spill (for spill response)
- Theft/loss of infectious agents/rDNA materials
- Escape of infected or transgenic animals

The following emergency response procedures shall be followed for a potential exposure to infectious agents including BBP. Some post-exposure treatments must be started within 1-2 hours of exposure so time is critical.

Immediate response:

The exposed site must be washed immediately for 10 minutes with copious amounts of water

- Remove any contaminated clothing
- If needle-stick, cut, animal bite or scratch, wash with soap and water after allowing the wound to bleed freely. Apply an appropriate skin disinfectant if applicable.
- If mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth) flush with water at the nearest faucet/eye wash for at least 15 minutes.
- If skin contact (intact or non-intact) wash with soap and water. Apply an appropriate skin disinfectant if applicable.
- Seek medical attention, no matter how seemingly insignificant the injury may seem.

Reporting:

All Personnel:

- For medical emergencies, *call 911*.
- Complete the EH&S [Online USF Injury, Illness, & Exposure Reporting Tool](#). This will walk you through the exposure/injury response
- Notify Biosafety officer (813) 974-5091 (After hours (813) 842-7020) or biosafety@usf.edu the same day as the potential exposure.

USF Employee/ Volunteer (work-related):

- The supervisor (with the employee), **immediately** contact workers compensation at (800) 455-2079. In case of emergency, call as soon as practicable. Complete the [Supervisor's Incident/Injury Report](#) and forward to [Environmental Health and Safety](#) within 24 hours. For information on [USF worker's compensation](#).
- Proceed to approved medical care facility for initial care.
- Contact Medical Health Administration Health office at (813) 974-3163 or pager (813) 216-0153.

USF Student (non-employee):

- Proceed to Student Health Services for initial care Tampa Campus (813-974-2331); St Pete Campus (727-873-4422) Sarasota-Manatee (941-487-4254) OR Personal insurance health care provider.
- Contact Medical Health Administration Health office at (813) 974-3163 or pager (813) 216-0153.

Moffitt Staff:

- Follow [Moffitt Incidents Website](#) per Moffitt Work Related Injury policy EH-13. (813) 745-4276.

When reporting to the Biosafety Office be sure to include: 1) Description of the incident 2) Organism(s) involved 3) PPE worn at time of incident 4) Cause of the incident (i.e. protocol breach) 5) Solution to prevent similar future events

Blood Borne Pathogens

- Notify Biosafety officer (813) 974-5091 (After hours (813) 842-7020) or biosafety@usf.edu **the same day** as the potential exposure.
- For all USF Health faculty, staff and students, if exposed to a **BBP** contact the USF Health Medical Health Administration (813) 974-3163 or by pager (813) 216-0153 during regular working hours. Contact the "on-call" Infectious Disease Physician (813) 974-2201 after-hours and on weekends. See website [Bloodborne Pathogens and Other Infectious Exposures: What to do After an Injury](#)
- All USF faculty, staff & volunteers with the potential for occupational exposure to BBP (**except employees, faculty, staff and volunteers at USF Health** must comply with the "USF BBP Pathogens policy 6-031." 

For more information/questions contact the Biosafety office at biosafety@usf.edu.

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