

	Exposure to Environmental Hazards Policy LCME Element 12.8 (Student Exposure Policies/Procedures)	Effective Date:	August 14, 2018
		Current Date:	August 7, 2018
		Contact:	Office of Admissions
Approved By: SOM Executive Faculty		Date Approved:	August 14, 2018
		Amended:	October 2018

1) GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

In the course of training at any one of the Tulane University Health Sciences schools, students may, on rare occasions, be inadvertently exposed to blood-borne pathogens, toxins, or suffer an injury while engaging in educational or training activity. These incidents may include accidental needle sticks or splashes with bodily fluids, or simply twisting an ankle while performing an educational task. Injured students should immediately report exposure to a supervisor and/or head nurse at the hospital or clinic, or contact the Student Health Center or 24-hour Nurse Advice Line. Medical students whose learning activity is interrupted as a result of an exposure incident should contact the Senior Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs as soon as possible. Upon verification, the Senior Associate Dean shall communicate with related faculty regarding the medical student’s absence and, where necessary, to accommodate an alternative educational or clinical activity.

As health care providers, we all have an obligation to protect the safety of our patients. Students identified with communicable diseases must take all precautions to prevent transmission to patients. This includes the use of masks, gloves, and gowns when necessary. For blood borne infections (HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, etc) infected students must remove themselves from any activity in which potential patient contamination could occur. This includes scrubbing in surgeries and participation in line placements and other bedside procedures. If such activities are required for clinical coursework and the infection is treatable, such activities may be delayed until the infection is properly cleared. No student will be graded unsatisfactorily simply on the basis of a blood borne infection. All reasonable accommodations will be made to accommodate learning without the potential for endangering patient welfare.

- a) **Scope:** This policy applies to all School of Medicine students, residents, and faculty.
- b) **Responsible Department/Party/Parties:**
 - i. Policy Owner: Office of Admissions and Student Affairs

- ii. Procedure: Office of Admissions and Student Affairs
- iii. Supervision: Dean's Office

2) DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Policy, the following terms and definitions apply:

Not applicable.

3) POLICY GUIDELINES

General Requirements:

- Injuries and Pathogens Exposure Guidelines are distributed to all medical students via printed and laminated "needle-stick" cards, to be affixed to student identification cards and carried by students at all times.
- Tulane University provides disability insurance for all medical students. The University will cover all medical charges not covered by the student's medical insurance policy.
- If the exposure took place at Tulane Medical Center or Tulane-Lakeside DURING WORKING HOURS (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.):
 - Report exposure immediately to your supervisor and/or head nurse at hospital or clinic. He/she will assist you with obtaining the source patient's consent and lab work.
 - Call The Health Center Downtown at 504-988-6929 immediately to arrange for follow-up and lab work. (Ideally have your lab work done at The Health Center to avoid billing issues.)
 - Your vaccination record will be reviewed and vaccination boosters will be offered if applicable.
- If the exposure took place at Tulane Medical Center or Tulane-Lakeside AFTER HOURS, on weekends or holidays:
 - Report exposure immediately to your supervisor and/or head nurse at hospital or clinic. He/she will assist you with obtaining source consent and lab work.
 - Report to emergency department to have your labs drawn (Ideally within 2 hours of exposure).
 - On the following business day call The Health Center Downtown's nurse at: 504-988-6929 for a follow-up appointment and proper documentation protocols.
 - For additional questions/instructions call: 1-855-487-0290, any time day or night.
- If the exposure took place at a location OUTSIDE of Tulane Medical Center/ Tulane-Lakeside, and/or any location within the United States of America.
 - Report exposure immediately to your supervisor and/or head nurse at hospital or clinic. He/she will assist you with obtaining the source patient's consent and lab work.
 - Follow their specific policy (some centers do require that you notify Employee Health Department and/or Infectious Disease).
 - You will need to get your blood drawn right away. (Ideally within 2 hours of exposure). This is usually done through the ER at the facility where you are working.
 - On the following business day call The Health Center Downtown's nurse at 504-988-6929 for a follow-up appointment and proper documentation protocols.

4) REVIEW/REVISION/IMPLEMENTATION

- a) Review Cycle: This policy shall be reviewed by the Dean's Office (Office of Admissions and Student Affairs) annually from the effective date.
- b) Office of Record: After authorization, the Dean's Office (Office of Admissions and Student Affairs) shall be the office of record for this policy.

5) RELATED POLICIES

[Office of Environmental Health and Safety Environmental Health and Safety Policies and Procedures Manual](#)

6) GOVERNING LAW OR REGULATIONS

7) ATTACHMENTS

[Blood Borne Pathogens \(BBP\) Exposure Packet](#)