

Accidental Exposure Response Plan

All exposures to blood/body fluids should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Outside of the healthcare setting, the level of risk by accidental exposure to blood for contracting HIV, HBV or HCV is significantly less. Post exposure prophylaxis will usually only be considered in the event of a skin puncture or other high risk exposure, such as to the mucous membranes or non-intact skin, and where potential for infection outweighs the risks inherent to the treatment. If a puncture should occur, let the wound bleed for a moment, then cleanse thoroughly with water or saline solution, disinfect with soap and then 70% alcohol solution. Call UPD at 826-5555 or go directly to an Emergency Room, such as Mad River Hospital. Follow-up notification must be made to the Biosafety Officer at 826-3302 and a sharps injury log will need to be filled out.

If the source of blood is known, he/she should be asked for permission to sample for HCV and HIV. If the subject refuses, then it will be assumed he/she is a carrier. If post exposure prophylaxis is indicated, it should begin as soon as possible, preferably within two hours of exposure. Delays in presenting to an emergency department should be avoided.

In the event of direct skin contact with blood, but where no puncture has occurred, the condition of the skin and location of the exposure will determine the response measures. Mucous membranes exposed to blood pose a greater risk of pass through of infectious agents, as does non-intact skin i.e. skin with a wound <3 days old or conditions such as dermatitis abrasions, scratches etc... If this should occur, rinse immediately and thoroughly with water or a saline solution (not alcohol) and immediately go to the Student Health Center for assessment and notify the Biosafety Officer.

For other intact skin exposures, such as hands or forearms, the same should occur: Quickly wash the area with soap and water. Re-assess the integrity of the skin and if still intact, disinfect with alcohol as a secondary precaution. Even in the event of intact skin exposure, notify the biosafety officer at 826-3302 for confirmation of no further action required. Each time, there is an exposure the source of the blood should be questioned for any known infections. It will be up to the discretion of the biosafety officer and the exposed individual to assess the risk and outline appropriate counter measures for all non-percutaneous exposures.

Phone Numbers:

EH&S 826-3302

Student Health 826-3146

UPD 826-5555 or 911

Mad River Community Hospital 822-3621