

Emergency Response: Dealing with Exposure to Blood and/or Body Fluids

Actions Required by Staff Member/Student/Individual exposed to blood and/or body fluids:

1. If skin is splashed or penetrated, wash the area well with soap and water.
2. If the eyes are contaminated, rinse the eyes using the emergency eye wash facility.
3. If there is a splash into the mouth spit it out and rinse thoroughly.
4. Contact your supervisor or manager immediately.
5. Document the date and time of exposure, how the incident occurred and the name of the source if known.

Actions Required by Supervisor / Manager / Other Responsible Person:

1. Ensure area has been washed.
2. Assess the type of exposure and need for testing and intervention. For the following types of exposure, consultation within 24 hours is mandatory:
 - A needle stick injury or other sharp instrument injury when the needle or sharp instrument is contaminated with blood or body fluids from another person.
 - Mucous membrane contact with, or ingestion of blood or body fluids of another person.
 - Contamination of fresh unhealed cut or broken skin surface with blood or body fluids from another person.
 - Bites where the skin surface is broken, or scratches where blood or body fluid contamination from another person is likely.
3. CONTACT:
 - **Dunedin:** Emergency Department, Dunedin Hospital (474 0999) for staff members, Student Health for Students (479 8212) during working hours and Emergency Department, Dunedin Hospital after working hours. Inform of the nature of the incident.
 - **Christchurch:** contact Infection Control or the Microbiologist on call at Christchurch Hospital (364 0640).
 - **Wellington:** ring the Occupational Health Nurse at Wellington Hospital (385 5999 ext. 6331 - pager 6331) or After Hours Manager if outside normal working hours, please ring the Wellington Hospital operator.
 - **For incidents that occur in other hospitals or other health care environments:** immediate notification of the local hospital staff member responsible for blood and /or body fluids exposure is essential.
 - The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Head of Department, Dean or other senior staff member should also be contacted.
4. Arrange for 10 mL blood to be taken from the exposed individual as soon as possible. The screening must include HIV, HBsAg, HBsAb and HCV.
5. If the source is known, contact and arrange for 10 mL blood sample to be taken.
6. Provide support for the student or staff member involved.
7. Complete the accident/incident form and forward to the HOD, Office of the Dean, and the (Occupational) Health & Safety Team. Contact details for Health & Safety staff and the accident/incident form are available on the Health & Safety website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/healthandsafety/>

IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT

It is important that the individual is medically assessed by an expert immediately so that treatment can be commenced if deemed necessary.

It is important to arrange follow up with the emergency contacts provided.

Issues for the medical services to consider include:

- Action will depend on the status of the individual and the status of the source
- Is there a need for immediate antiretroviral treatment?
- Is there a need for hepatitis B immunoglobulin?
- Is there a need for hepatitis B vaccination?
- Has follow up been arranged?