



Student Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens & Tuberculosis

Senior Leader: Medical School Dean

Responsible University Officer: Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Policy Owner: Assistant Dean of Student Affairs - Twin Cities

Policy Contact: Student Affairs Manager

Policy Statement

The University of Minnesota Medical School (UMMS) is committed to providing a safe and healthful work environment to prevent or minimize student exposure to bloodborne pathogens and Tuberculosis, and to offer appropriate initial treatment/follow-up, when or if such exposures occur.

The purpose of this policy is to: 1) outline the methods by which the UMMS seeks to prevent/manage bloodborne and respiratory infections in its learners; 2) delineate the procedures if exposure to blood borne pathogens should occur to UMMS students engaged in educational activities, including financial responsibility should exposure occur.

Efforts to Manage Risks

OSHA

All medical students are required to complete the online Bloodborne Pathogens Annual OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requirement. This is a one-time training for incoming UMMS students and must be completed by October 1 of their first year of matriculation.

Academic records will be placed On Hold, preventing future enrollment, for any student who is non-compliant with this requirement. In addition, students will not be permitted to engage in educational or extra-curricular activities where OSHA training is critical for participation (ie. early clinical experiences). This may result in receipt of a failing grade for each affected educational activity, referral to the scholastic standing committee, and/or delayed graduation. Students can review their compliance status via the Compliance Tab in MedIS, the student information system portal.

Training is accessed through the [Training Hub](#). Click on the Course Catalog and register for the following course: *Bloodborne Pathogens Annual OSHA Requirement*

Mask Fit Test

All students are required to complete a respiratory mask fit test prior to starting clinical experiences, including early clinical experiences (ECE) during the Foundations Phase. Students

Student Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens & Tuberculosis

are fitted prior to visiting clinical sites. This five minute pre-scheduled training is required only once.

Clerkship Orientations

Students will receive information regarding appropriate exposure procedures, including mechanisms for preventing exposure, for their specific clinical site during their clerkship orientation. Students will also work with the Site Director and their primary clinical supervisors to ensure appropriate knowledge of facility protocols in the event of exposure.

In addition, upon arrival at a clinical site, UMMS students should be proactive in seeking out information regarding site-specific protocols for managing exposure to blood borne pathogens and be familiar with the protocols for managing education exposure to blood borne pathogens.

Procedures

1. Upon exposure, UMMS students should follow the *Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Procedure* as outlined through Boynton Health Services (See “*Related Information*”) and summarized below
 - a. In the case of bloodborne exposure, wash the exposed area for 15 minutes with antimicrobial soap. If the Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure (BBPE) is to the eye(s), irrigate the eye(s) with water for 15 minutes.
 - b. For all potential exposures, notify your preceptor/supervisor immediately. Your preceptor/supervisor is responsible for notifying the appropriate Site Director and/or Clerkship Director and can assist in the identification and cooperation of the source patient. If possible, make note of the following:
 - i. the patient's name
 - ii. location where the exposure occurred
 - iii. date and time of the exposure
 - iv. names of witnesses
 - v. in the case of a needle stick, the type (hollow bore or solid)
 - c. Complete the Boynton **Bodily Injury/Property Damage Incident Report** linked in the *Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Procedure*
2. All students must contact the Boynton Health Service (BHS) 24-hour information line immediately by calling (612) 625-7900.
3. During business hours, the BHS Medical Information Nurse will take the student through a rapid assessment about risk status and direct the student where to seek treatment.
 - a. Students will be expected to contact BHS immediately because of the need for rapid assessment about prophylactic medications, rapid prescribing of medications, if indicated, and the limited capacity of a student to assess their own injury
 - b. With the assistance of the BHS Medical Information Nurse and the student's preceptor or other designated person, the student will attempt to secure pertinent information about the source patient information for discussion during the risk assessment
 - c. During after hours, students should seek treatment at the nearest urgent care or emergency room and should contact BHS as soon as possible for follow-up
4. **Costs associated with testing, prophylactic medications, and follow-up treatment will be covered at Boynton Health Services by student fees. Initial costs of on campus (at Boynton) and off-campus testing and treatment should be covered by the student's personal insurance coverage; amounts not covered by personal insurance will be covered by [Boynton Health Services](#) as part of student fees each student pays.**

Student Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens & Tuberculosis

5. Blood-borne pathogen exposure and the possible subsequent treatments are treated as an OSHA incident, requiring documentation in a separate restricted access medical record. Confidentiality is assured.
6. In accordance with the Needlestick Safety Law, the exposed student will receive prevention discussions, counseling, and follow-up on the exposure.

Additional Implications for Exposure to Infectious Diseases

To ensure the health of its students, patients, and the community, the UMMS reserves the right to make decisions that limit or modify the educational activities of a student or group of students in instances where the risks or impact of potential infection are higher than would be expected of a learner in typical clinical environments, including the availability of resources for treating infectious agents. Such limitations could include modifications to the clinical experience, reassignment to low risk patient populations, or the removal of students from educational activities where exposure to an infectious disease is suspected, until a determination of safety can be appropriately assessed.

The UMMS will work with students in these situations to ensure any modified experience meets all learning objectives and that UMMS academic requirements are maintained.

Students who contract a bloodborne illness as a result of an exposure, in addition to the procedures and supports outlined herein, should also refer to the “Medical Students with Bloodborne Pathogen Infections” policy regarding accommodations.

Forms/Instructions

Boynton Health Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure Procedure and Incident Form:

<https://boynton.umn.edu/sites/boynton.umn.edu/files/2023-08/BBPE%20Procedure%20for%20Staff%20Faculty%20Students%2008112023%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf>

Additional Contacts

Role	Contact	Email
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Definitions

Educational exposure to blood borne pathogens

An educational exposure to blood borne pathogens is defined as a percutaneous injury (e.g., a needlestick or cut with a sharp object), contact with mucous membranes or contact with skin (especially when the exposed skin is chapped, abraded, or afflicted with dermatitis or the contact is prolonged or involving an extensive area) with blood, tissues, or other potentially infectious body fluids, which occur in the educational setting.

Student Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens & Tuberculosis

Significant exposure to patients with blood borne pathogens

Significant exposure to patients with blood borne pathogens is defined as actual contact with blood or other potentially infectious body fluids. Significant exposure to patients with tuberculosis is defined as five-minute face-to-face contact with patients who could have active pulmonary tuberculosis disease.

Related Information

Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Procedure (Boynton Health):

<https://boynton.umn.edu/sites/boynton.umn.edu/files/2025-05/blood-borne-pathogens-procedure.pdf>

Refer to the [Medical Student Policies](#) webpage to review the following related policies:

- Medical Students with Bloodborne Pathogen Infections
- Needlestick Injury Protocol

LCME Accreditation Relevance

This policy ensures the UMMS meets Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Accreditation requirements as follows:

Element 12.8: STUDENT EXPOSURE POLICIES/PROCEDURES. “A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following: 1) The education of medical students about methods of prevention; 2) The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility; 3) The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities. All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.”

History

Amended:

November 2001

January 2006

March 2012

August 2015

February 2020

Approved: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, January 2021

Reviewed and Updated: August 2023

Reviewed, Updated, and Approved: Senior Associate Dean, UME, April 2025