

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Guidelines for Employee & Students

Purpose: This guidance provides general procedures for employees and students who may experience potential exposure to blood or body fluids, including needle stick in the course their job, during academic coursework, research activities, or clinical rotations conducted off the UTA campus. While students are not covered under workers' compensation, any such incident must be promptly reported to the immediate supervisor and the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Office. Upon receiving the report, EH&S will review the incident to determine whether any contributing conditions exist on UTA property that can be corrected to prevent future occurrences. In cases where the exposure indicates a need to review practices that may have led to the incident, EH&S may contact the supervisor to recommend an evaluation and, if appropriate, modification of the practices to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

For offsite or field research activities and clinical rotations taking place outside the UTA campus, the clinical site instructor or research lead should report the incident to the EH&S Office. However, an off-site investigation by EH&S may not be warranted unless required by the contractual agreement between UTA and the host clinical or research site.

Steps to be taken in the event of a needle stick/blood and body fluid exposure:

Students (CONHI Students see below):

- Apply first aid:
 1. Clean the exposed area with soap and water for at least 15 minutes.
 2. Flush mucous membranes with water or saline for at least 15 minutes.
- Obtain Medical Evaluation at Student Health Services:

The University of Texas Health Services
605 S W St, Arlington, TX 76010
(817) 272-2771

- If the incident happened at an offsite/remote clinical or research location, follow the site procedures and/or procedures from your college for immediate medical evaluation.
- Notify your supervisor to report the injury via the [EH&S Student/Visitor Injury/Illness Form](#).

COHNI Students ONLY:

- If an incident occurs during your clinical rotation, the student should notify their faculty member/lead teacher and follow the site procedures. If a needle stick or serious injury occurs, proceed to the nearest emergency department or urgent care for treatment.
- Notify the Clinical Compliance Nurse (amber.tyler@uta.edu) and report the injury via the [EH&S Student/Visitor Injury/Illness Form](#) as soon as possible for all injuries.

Employees:

- Apply first aid:
 1. Clean the exposed area with soap and water for at least 15 minutes.
 2. Flush mucous membranes with water or saline for at least 15 minutes.

Follow WCI Guidelines for Medical Treatment and Injury Reporting at <https://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/workerscomp/index.php>

Additional Information: If there are any questions, contact EH&S Office at (817) 272-2185 or ehsafety@uta.edu.