

# UConn HEALTH

POLICY NUMBER 2011-05  
July 12, 2016

## **POLICY: OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS - EVALUATION AND TREATMENT**

### **PURPOSE:**

To describe UConn Health's policy in responding to an exposure to blood or body fluids. In the event of a blood or body fluid exposure to any person noted below in the scope of this policy, timely evaluation and treatment is provided through the coordinated efforts of the exposed individual, Employee Health Services, the Emergency Department, and the Manager/Supervisor/Principal Investigator (PI)/Responsible Individual staff.

### **SCOPE:**

This procedure applies to the following persons: Employees, Students, Residents/Fellows, Registered Volunteers. Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC) employees may also reference CMHC Infection Control Policies for guidance.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

Body Fluid - Natural bodily fluids or secretions of fluid such as blood, semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, pericardial fluid, and amniotic fluid.

Bloodborne Pathogen - Pathogenic microorganisms that are transmitted via human blood/body fluids and cause disease in humans. They include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Exposure –

- Break in the skin by a sharp used object (including hollow-bore, solid bore, and cutting needles, broken glassware, or other sharp instrument) that is potentially contaminated with body fluids
- Bite from a source with visible bleeding in the mouth that causes a break in the skin or bleeding in the exposed worker. For human bites, clinical evaluation must include the possibility that both the person bitten and the person who inflicted the bite were exposed to blood borne pathogens.
- Splash of blood or body fluids to mucosal surfaces such as eyes, nose, mouth.
- Exposure to blood or body fluid to non-intact skin (e.g. dermatitis, chapped skin, abraded skin, or open wound).

**POLICY:**

Whenever an individual covered within the scope of this policy experiences an exposure, immediate actions are required by the individual exposed and his/her manager. Step by step procedures are linked below delineating each person's responsibilities.

From Monday - Friday 8 A.M to 4:00 P.M. contact Employee Health Service (EHS): Call (EHS), extension 2893 and then press 1. When Employee Health is closed, inaccessible during normal business hours, or after 4:00 p.m., the exposed individual goes directly to the UConn Emergency Department and indicates the type, route, and hour of exposure to the triage nurse.

Exposed individuals who are UConn Health employees are expected to notify Human Resources of the exposure (X4589) within the first 2 working days post exposure and arrange for completion of required paperwork (form WC-207 and associated worker's compensation paperwork).

Residents and Fellows are expected to notify the Capital Area Health Consortium (CAHC).

CMHC employees will follow CMHC policy 1.07a of the CMHC Infection Control Manual.

All other UConn Health persons covered by this procedure must notify the UConn Health Police Department.

**References:**

UConn Health Employee Health Guidelines For Management Of Occupational Exposure To Blood Borne Pathogens:

[http://health.uconn.edu/occupational-environmental/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/12/bbf\\_guidelines\\_2014.pdf](http://health.uconn.edu/occupational-environmental/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/12/bbf_guidelines_2014.pdf)

Andrew Agwunobi (Signed)

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**Date**

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