
PURPOSE

This standard establishes guidelines for managing exposures to bloodborne or biological pathogens within the University of North Dakota (UND) Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Biohazard department.

DEFINITIONS

Bloodborne Pathogens - Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and body fluid that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Contaminated - The presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious material on an item or surface.

Contaminated Sharps - Any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, and broken capillary tubes.

Exposure Incident - A specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that result from the performance of practice requirements.

Other potentially infectious materials/biological pathogens – Includes, but not limited to:

1. The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.
2. Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead).
3. HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.
4. Airborne pathogens such as tuberculosis (TB)

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STUDENT

In the event of a bloodborne or biological pathogen exposure, UND MLS students follow School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure: Immediate Steps process. The immediate steps process can be found on the SMHS website at <https://med.und.edu/policies/bloodborne-pathogen-immediate-steps.html>. It can also be found in the UND Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan (ECP) at <https://und.policystat.com/policy/7739092/latest/>. This document (UND MLS Pathogen Exposure Management Standard) corresponds with both the SMHS Immediate Steps process and the UND ECP.

Exposures to fixed tissue, such as those from microtome usage in histology, will follow a different protocol. See separate Fixed Tissue Protocol section below.

Students at an off-campus clinical site should also follow any site-specific exposure policies, as applicable.

Roles and Responsibilities

Student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediately report the exposure incident to instructor/clinical site supervisor/preceptor• Seek immediate and follow up care• Complete required reports and route to appropriate contacts• Incur charges of exposure• Complete follow-up recommendations given by healthcare provider
Clinical Affiliation/Immediate Supervisor or UND Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide assistance to the exposed student<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Obtain immediate care and medical evaluation○ Complete applicable reports within 24 hours
UND MLS Safety Coordinator (or Program Director)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate the exposure incident• Complete applicable forms• Ensure all forms are routed to UND Office of Safety• Retain exposure incident records for 30 years post-enrollment at UND

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Protocol

Follow all steps outlined by the SMHS Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure: Immediate Steps website at: <https://med.und.edu/policies/bloodborne-pathogen-immediate-steps.html>

Note: The listed SMHS contact in this protocol for the MLS department is the department chair. The MLS Safety Officer should also be notified of all incidents. MLS Safety Coordinator contact information can be found in the UND MLS Safety Resources webpage at <https://med.und.edu/medical-laboratory-science/safety.html>

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Fixed Tissue Protocol

<p>Immediately</p>	<p>In the event of an exposure to fixed tissue samples, immediately follow these steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the site by washing the affected area with soap and water • Report the incident to your supervisor. 	
<p>Complete within 2 hours</p>	<p>Immediate Supervisor or Clinical Site Education Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the UND MLS department Safety Coordinator or Program Director as soon as feasible to oversee the evaluation process. • Identify the source individual and request bloodborne pathogen testing. See Testing Guidelines below for additional information. 	
<p>Complete within 24 hours</p>	<p>Student and Immediate Supervisor or Clinical Site Education Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the “UND Incident Reporting Form (People; Employee, Student, Non-employee, Visitor)” found under the Incident Reporting tab at https://campus.und.edu/safety/resources/forms.html • Submit form to the UND MLS Safety Coordinator or Program Director <p>UND MLS Safety Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure completion of all submitted forms from clinical sites • Forward forms to UND Office of Safety 	
<p>Testing guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IF</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THEN</p>
	<p>The source tests positive for a bloodborne pathogen:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the UND MLS Safety Coordinator • Have the student tested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the student tests negative, re-test the student 90 days post exposure. • Notify the UND MLS Safety Coordinator of all results.
<p>The source tests negative for a bloodborne pathogen:</p>	<p>No additional action is needed.</p>	

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EMPLOYEE

In the event of a bloodborne or biological pathogen exposure, UND MLS employees must follow the UND Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan (ECP). This document corresponds with that plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Employee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek immediate and follow up care• Immediately report the exposure incident to UND MLS Safety Coordinator• Complete required reports• Complete follow-up recommendations given by healthcare provider• Any/all follow up care shall be at no cost to the employee
UND MLS Safety Coordinator (or Program Director)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide the following assistance to the employee with:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Obtaining immediate care and medical evaluation by the UND Designated Medical Provider (Altru Occupational Health), or other Designated Medical Provider the employee has selected in writing.○ Completing appropriate forms• Verify completion of forms and route to UND Office of Safety

Protocol

Immediately	<p>In the event of a needlestick or sharps injury, or are exposed to blood or OPIM, immediately follow these steps as applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean the site:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Needle-stick injuries and cuts – Wash affected area with soap and water.○ Splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin – Rinse with water for 10 minutes.○ Splash to the eyes – Proceed to the nearest eyewash station and flush for a minimum of 15 minutes, rolling the eyes left to right and up and down. Contact lenses may be gently taken out during flushing.• Report the incident to the UND MLS Safety Officer.• Seek medical treatment for evaluation and recommended follow up procedures within 2 hours of incident.
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<p>Complete within 2 hours</p>	<p>Complete medical evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UND Designated Medical Provider (Altru Occupational Health) or Altru Emergency Department if after hours • If possible, take the “Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Source Identification” form along (Appendix 6 in the ECP). <p>UND MLS Safety Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to UND ECP located at https://und.policystat.com/policy/4590199/latest/ • Determine if identification of source individual can be obtained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete Appendix 6 “Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Source Identification” and send with employee if possible. Otherwise, fax the form as soon as possible to provider. • Initiate other applicable forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appendix 2: Post-Exposure Incident Checklist ○ Appendix 8: Report of Exposure to Blood or OPIM Request for Treatment • Assist employee in obtaining a medical evaluation • If employee refuses care, complete the “Employee/Student Bloodborne/OPIM Exposure Release Form (Refusal of Care) form (Appendix 7 in ECP).
<p>Complete within 24 hours</p>	<p>Assist UND MLS Safety Coordinator in completing the following forms, found under the Incident Reporting tab of the UND Safety Office Forms webpage at https://campus.und.edu/safety/resources/forms.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Reporting Form (People; Employee, Student, Non-employee, Visitor) • Incident Investigation Form - Part 1 (Supervisor or Witness) <p>UND MLS Safety Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward forms to UND Office of Safety
<p>Complete within 1 week</p>	<p>Assist UND MLS Safety Coordinator in completing the following forms, found under the Incident Reporting tab of the UND Safety Office Forms webpage at https://campus.und.edu/safety/resources/forms.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Investigation Form – Part 2 (Supervisor/Manager) <p>UND MLS Safety Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If applicable, complete the “Sharps Injury Log” (Appendix 3 of the ECP) found at https://und.policystat.com/policy/4590199/latest/ • Forward forms to UND Office of Safety

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REFERENCES

1. University of North Dakota, Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan. Effective 04/2020. Found at <https://und.policystat.com/policy/4590199/latest/>
2. University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Student Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure: Immediate Steps. Found at <https://med.und.edu/policies/bloodborne-pathogen-immediate-steps.html>