


This policy has been adopted by UNC Hospitals for its use in infection control. It is provided to you as information only.

	PC-25; INF-N-02 Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure-Mode of Operation Responsible for Review: Infection Control Committee
<i>Initial Date Effective: May 2001</i>	<i>Date Last Reviewed: December 2022</i>

POLICY

UNC Campus Health evaluates bloodborne pathogen exposures as outlined in Policy INF-N-03 for all health affairs students (including visiting medical students or other health science students who have an exposure during their official clinical rotation through one of the UNC health science schools). It is necessary to provide this service on a 24-hour basis since these students need to be evaluated and possibly treated immediately. The following outlines the evaluation protocol at different hours of service.

PROTOCOL

1. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8AM-5PM), the student should call 966-6573 to have an initial, brief telephone discussion with the Campus Health registered nurse or provider on duty. The student will provide the source patient's name, date of birth and UNCH medical record number. If the Campus Health nurse or provider recommends that the student be seen, these evaluations are usually done through appointments. However, they can be expedited in emergent or urgent situations.
2. If the exposure occurs during the time Campus Health is closed, the student should call 966-6573 or the main Campus Health phone number, 966-2281, and he/she will be connected to the UNC Nurse Connect nurse.
 - a. If the student is doing an away rotation or is in a situation where they cannot be evaluated in the proper time frame at Campus Health, and needs immediate evaluation and possible treatment, the physician on-call will instruct the student to go to the nearest emergency room, urgent care facility or the closest medical facility that has a provider comfortable assessing bloodborne pathogen exposures. Since students are not employees, their private health insurance will be used if they are seen in the emergency room or other medical clinics.
 - b. As soon as feasible and once the UNCH source patient's lab results are known, the student will be notified about the source's lab results.
 - c. If the source is HIV positive and the student is not on prophylaxis, the on-call Campus Health physician will recommend and prescribe post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). If the student starts PEP, the student will be asked to see a provider as soon as feasible for baseline labs. The Campus Health provider may consult experts if appropriate. If the source patient is a known HIV patient of UNCH, the Campus Health provider may contact the UNC ID physician for assistance regarding the PEP regimen.
 - d. If the student is on rotation outside of Chapel Hill, and the source patient is HIV positive, the student should be seen as a patient by a provider in that community as soon as possible. In some cases, this may mean the student is seen by the medical facility's occupational health provider.
 - e. If the student is initially seen at UNC's Emergency Room (e.g., laceration repair when Campus Health is closed) and seen by the Infectious Disease Fellow, the student will be referred back to Campus Health for follow-up.

Note: visiting students (rotating through an official rotation through one of UNC's health science schools) can be evaluated initially by the registered nurse and/or by Campus Health providers. However, their private health insurance (which is a requirement for them to have before they are able to do a rotation at UNC) will be billed for labs that are ordered on their behalf.

3. Campus Health website: <https://campushealth.unc.edu/urgent-needs/health-science-students-blood-borne-pathogen-exposure>

Reviewed by:
Infection Control Committee

Date:
March 2025

Approved by:
Medical Director

Date:
March 2025

Revised: 11/01, 3/04, 7/06, 4/07, 11/07, 4/10, 6/10, 3/11, 9/13, 11/13, 10/16, 3/22, 12/22
Reviewed: 7/02, 11/03, 9/05, 04/17, 4/18, 3/19, 6/20, 3/21, 3/25

Reviewed by:
Medical Staff

Date:
March 2025

Approved by:
Medical Director

Date:
March 2025

Reviewed: April 2001, September 2002, June 2005, October 2005, April 2007

Revised: January 2004, October 2002, September 2010, October 2013, September 2016 (added resources, screening question), June 2017 (screening question), September 2020, March 2025