

Special Pathogens Response Center (SPARC) SOP: Occupational Health for Staff Working with Special Pathogen Patients	
Subject	This SOP describes the process for pre-screening staff volunteering on the SPARC response team, symptom screening during and after working with a patient who is suspected or confirmed to have a special pathogen, and steps to follow for a PPE breach, needlestick or injury, and/or a positive symptom screen.
Responsibility	All staff working in the SPU are responsible for understanding and conducting the procedures described in this SOP.
Supplies	Thermometer
Procedure	Pre-screening of Volunteer Response Team Staff All staff volunteering for the SPARC Response Team should be in general good health when deciding to volunteer for the team. Occupational Health Services will not perform a formal pre-screen for staff volunteering for the team. At the time of activation, staff will not be allowed in the patient care area if: • Immunocompromised • Pregnant • Open wounds on the skin All staff who are on the SPARC Response Team must be able to wear special pathogen PPE for a maximum of 4 hours. Before donning PPE for special pathogens, staff should always do a self-assessment to determine that they are feeling well, have no open wounds, or are not immunocompromised or pregnant at the time. All staff must be employed by UNC Hospitals, NC Health, or UNC SOM, and are not external contract employees, resident/intern physicians, students, or volunteers. Symptom Monitoring All staff providing direct patient care, working in the SPARC laboratory, or managing the waste stream will be required to measure their temperature AND complete the symptom monitoring questionnaire twice daily through the Service Now portal. A link to the questionnaire is below, and staff will be provided with QR codes for easy access to the form. *Symptom screen may change based on pathogen Symptom Monitoring Questionnaire • Oral Temperature: If $\geq$ 100 degrees F (37.8 degrees C), when was the onset? • New Joint or Muscle Aches, or both: Yes or No • New Weakness/Fatigue: Yes or No

	• New Sore Throat: Yes or No • New Loss of Appetite: Yes or No • New Gastrointestinal Symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, and/or vomiting: Yes or No • Other new symptoms such as red eyes, skin rash, and/or hiccups: Yes or No Monitoring for Acute Illness All staff who answer “yes” for any new symptoms of acute infectious disease will be given specific instructions after a phone consultation with the SPARC medical director and OHS. PPE Breach or Needle Stick/Injury All staff with potential or definite exposure to a special pathogen in the SPU will be immediately evaluated by the SPARC physician on-call and follow up dependent on pathogen and symptoms identified. Refer to the PPE Breach SOP for more information. Refer to the Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens policy for more information on needlestick or other injuries involving blood other potentially infectious material (OPIM). Staff with a High-Risk Exposure Staff and OHS should refer to CDC recommendations for high-risk exposure guidelines dependent on pathogens. Staff with a high-risk exposure will be furloughed for an amount of time dependent on the pathogen starting after the last exposure and will be monitored twice daily. • The time of furlough may change depending on the pathogen the staff is exposed to. • Paid administrative leave will be utilized for staff furlough.
References	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023, September 11). <i>Infection prevention and control recommendations for patients in U.S. hospitals who are suspected or confirmed to have selected viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF)</i> . Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients in U.S. Hospitals who are Suspected or Confirmed to have Selected Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF) Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs) CDC
Responsible for Content	SPU Program Manager SPU Medical Director OHS Medical Director

UNC SPARC
Special Pathogen Unit (SPU)
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

