

<b>Officer   Owner:</b>	Executive Associate Dean, Student Affairs	<b>Origination:</b>	02/2016
<b>Area:</b>	07 – Student Affairs	<b>Last Revised:</b>	03/2025

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## 950-07-014 - Medical Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards

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### I. Policy Summary

All students will receive an orientation to blood-borne pathogens and infectious and environmental diseases and how to safely avoid their exposure during orientation week and during the first block of instruction. Students will also be required to complete the corresponding online UC Health training modules. In the unlikely event an exposure occurs on the UCR campus, the campus protocol will be followed.

### II. Definitions

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education requires that: “A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:

- A. The education of medical students about methods of prevention
- B. The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
- C. The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities

All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk. [LCME Element 12.8]

**Exposure Incident:** A specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non- intact skin, or parenteral (through the skin) contact with blood or “other potentially infectious materials.

### III. Policy Text

If an exposure incident occurs, the student is instructed to wash the exposed area immediately with soap and water. If there is a cut, the area should be washed with soap and water and the area allowed to bleed freely. If blood or other potentially infectious body fluids enter the eye, nose or mouth, the area should be flushed with water for at least 15 minutes. Then the student should seek immediate medical/nursing care, either from the campus Student Health Services (during office hours) or at a local emergency or urgent care center. Students must follow the Environmental Health and Safety biosafety exposure control plan found at <http://ehs.ucr.edu/biosafety/>. Students must also notify their supervising faculty at the time of the incident who should in turn notify the Associate Dean for Career Advising within 24 hours.

Those airborne, blood and body fluid exposures and needle stick injuries that occur while a student is completing an off-campus clinical activity will follow a protocol consistent with the clinical affiliate’s policies.

In the event of an exposure, the student will, after reducing the exposure (as described above), immediately notify his or her supervising resident and/or attending and proceed immediately to the designated local facility at the affiliate’s site in which the incident occurred.

Students may also seek immediate treatment at the UCR Student Health Services (during business hours). It is important to note that treatment for HIV prophylaxis needs to be initiated within two hours

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for optimal effectiveness. Students will not be penalized for leaving the service after notification of the supervising resident/faculty.

Students will also be expected to notify the Associate Dean for Career Advising within 24 hours of all exposures.

For all exposure incidents, the route(s) of exposure and the circumstances under which the exposure incident occurred are to be documented. The source individual is identified and documented, unless identification is not feasible or prohibited by state or local law. After consent is obtained, the source individual's blood is tested for HBV, HCV and HIV status. If the exposed student gives consent, a baseline blood sample is collected immediately following the incident with subsequent periodic samples taken at a later date.

Students are expected to provide their insurance at the time of treatment for occupational exposure. Student Affairs will support the remaining costs of acute care up to \$1000 including initial evaluations/assessment after co-pays and/or cost after insurance is applied from student's health insurance. Chronic healthcare costs must be covered by the student's health insurance.

### IV. Responsibilities

Office of Student Affairs (OSA)

### V. Procedures

- A. The School of Medicine (SOM) shall maintain the Needle Stick/Occupational Exposure Hotline 24 hours each day, seven days a week.
- B. In case of needle stick or other acute occupational exposure, the student should call the Needle Stick/Occupational Exposure Hotline at (951) 827-8275. The system will prompt the student for their name and phone number. The on-call administrator, an SOM faculty member, will return the student's call within one hour.
- C. In the case of any exposure, the student should also complete the online [Occupational Exposure Report Form](#) and follow the guidelines outlined for the specific exposure.

### VI. Forms | Instructions

[Occupational Exposure Report Form](#)

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I. Approvals:

MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (04/17/2025)

Signed by:

*Daniel Teraguchi*

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