

Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure

Students are expected to follow Universal Precautions at all times. Universal Precautions is an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens, (Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030(b) definitions).

All students should take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, other sharp instruments or any exposure to bloodborne pathogens. A student is encouraged to use needle and scalpel safety devices when available. All student are required to use appropriate PPE in any clinical or research experience if possible, exposure to bloodborne or airborne pathogens could occur.

Report and seek treatment for occupational exposures immediately.

If the student sustains a needle-stick injury while on a clinical rotation, the student is required to perform the following as soon as the incident occurs:

1. Notify your supervising physician immediately
2. Follow the host hospital's or clinic's protocol for risk evaluation and post-exposure prophylaxis. This information can be obtained through the Emergency Department or the Risk Management Department.
3. Notify ATSU-SOMA Director of Operations, Assistant Dean of Clinical Education, Assessments and Outcomes, GME and your RDME as soon as possible.
4. Keep paper copies of your medical records, the Student Incident Report and accompanying date.
5. Keep one complete set for your personal records. Give the Student Incident Report and confirmation that you followed the host hospital and/or PEP post –exposure guidelines to your RDME, Regional Education Coordinator (REC) and send an electronic copy to the ATSU-SOMA Director of Operations. The PEP guidelines link can be found on the eValue. You do not have to provide personal medical information to the RDME or REC. However, we do require documentation that you sought medical advice and any required treatment following national health guidelines.

In the event a student experiences an injury other than a needle-stick, including COVID-19 exposure while on a clinical rotation, the student is required to perform the following as soon as the incident occurs:

1. Notify your attending immediately
2. Seek medical attention as needed
3. Follow your host hospital or clinic's risk management protocol for reporting and treatment.
4. Notify your RDME and the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education, Assessments and Outcomes, GME/Associate Dean of Clinical Services as soon as possible.
5. Provide Student Incident Report and documentation of the incident (again, no personal medical information is necessary, just proof that you were evaluated and/or treated after an injury) to your RDME and REC for your file.
6. Send an electronic copy of the Student Incident Report to the ATSU-SOMA Clearinghouse (OMMCenter@atsu.edu).

Students will not seek medical attention from any physician that would be involved in grading or assessing the student through their medical education.

Students with known exposure to the SARS-COV-2 virus (COVID-19 during a clinical experience, will need to report this information to their RDME, Assistant Dean of Clinical Education and ATSU Clearinghouse. A student with a positive COVID-19 test result is required to follow the CDC guidelines and quarantine for 10 days. They are required to obtain medical clearance from a healthcare provider that is not involved in grading or assessing of the student and approval from the ATSU Clearinghouse prior to entering or returning into the clinical learning environment.