

Blood and Bodily Fluids Exposure Response Procedures

Blood and bodily fluids may contain pathogens such as hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

What is an exposure?

- Needle stick or cut from sharp object contaminated with blood and/or bodily fluids.
- Blood or bodily fluids contact with broken skin (i.e., open cut, wound, dermatitis).
- Blood or bodily fluids contact with mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, nose, mouth).

You do not have to see blood or bodily fluids on instruments for an infection to occur.

What to do if there is an exposure?

1. Perform hand hygiene and wear single-use gloves prior to handling or dressing the wound.
2. If the area is bleeding, allow it to bleed freely.
3. Gently wash the exposed skin surface with soap and warm water (do not scrub). After cleaning the wound, apply a skin antiseptic and cover with a clean dressing or bandage.
4. If there has been a splash onto a mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth), flush the area thoroughly with cold water.
5. The person exposed must **immediately** contact a health care provider.
6. Document all incidents and keep records on site for at least one year, and on file for at least an additional two years.
7. Clean all exposed equipment to remove organic material. Disinfect equipment using the appropriate level of disinfection (see Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization Flowchart and Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant poster).

What information needs to be documented when there has been an exposure?

- Full name (first and last) and contact information of the person exposed.
- Contact information and full name (first and last) of operator involved in the incident.
- Date of injury/exposure.
- Details of the exposure including service provided, where on the body the injury/exposure occurred, and how the injury/exposure occurred.
- Action taken.



Durham Health Connection Line

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
durham.ca/KnowBeforeYouGo

