

Exposure Types

- Blood/Body Fluid: contact with patients' blood/body fluid; cuts, sticks, or scratches from needles or surgical instruments contaminated with patients' blood/body fluid
- Communicable Disease: infectious diseases spread by close contact including, but not limited to, hepatitis, influenza, measles, pertussis, tuberculosis
- Animal: exposures include but are not limited to bites and scratches; contact with animals' blood or body fluid; cuts, sticks, or scratches from cages, needles, or surgical instruments contaminated by animals

Step 1: Perform First Aid

- Needlestick/sharps injury: wash with soap & water
- Splash to mucous membrane or broken skin (nose or mouth): flush with water, but do not use soap
- Splash to eyes: irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigation solution

Step 2: Report Exposure

- Immediately call Employee Health at (336) 716-4801 to report exposure

Step 3: Notification

- Blood/Body Fluid: notify Employee Health (6-4801) and Student Affairs (stuserv@Wakehealth.edu)
- Communicable Disease: notify immediate supervisor and Student Affairs (stuserv@Wakehealth.edu). Supervisor will contact Infection Control
- Animal: notify immediate supervisor and Student Affairs (stuserv@Wakehealth.edu). Supervisor will contact ARP veterinary staff

Step 4: Complete Occurrence Reporting Form

- Required in all exposure instances
- [Occurrence Reporting Form](#) (Go to the Intranet > Tools > Occurrence Reporting > Employee Occurrence Reporting)

**These procedures apply to faculty, staff, and students. If exposure occurs after-hours, contact Employee Health at 6-4801. If exposure occurs offsite at another facility, follow the host facility's exposure protocol and then notify Employee Health.*

What happens next...

- Employee Health has set up a process at all sites for having bloodwork drawn on the source patient in the event of an exposure (as long as the patient is still at the location and has not left or been discharged). Please call (336) 716-4801 as soon as possible to receive step-by-step instructions on how to proceed.
- If the source patient's labs are negative, no bloodwork will be drawn on the student.
- If the source patient's labs are positive, Employee Health will draw bloodwork on the student.
- Employee Health will also offer to begin prophylactic medication, but the student must contact his/her primary care provider to obtain the full course of medication and follow-up care.

**Students will be responsible for any expenses incurred, except for the initial bloodwork performed by Employee Health in the event of a workplace exposure/needlestick. In all other circumstances, the student's personal health insurance will apply.*