

Post Exposure Information: Time is your Enemy

Step 1: Immediately clean needle sticks and cuts by washing the skin with soap and water. Splashes to the nose, mouth or skin should be irrigated with large amounts of water. Splashes to the eyes should be irrigated with large amounts of water or saline.

Under 2 hours to time of 1st dose of medication is optimal to the effectiveness of post-exposure prophylaxis. Therefore, it is critical that you are treated promptly for any accidental exposure to potentially infectious blood or body fluids.

Step 2: If you are at an on-campus clinical site, follow Step 1 and then report immediately to the Student Health Physician at the Executive Wellness Clinic in the CBH building. If the physician is not in the clinic, page him at 817-216-3786.

Step 3: If you are at an off-campus site that is equipped to do initial testing and treatment, follow step 1 and then report the incident immediately to your preceptor or supervisor at that facility. Request that the exposure is addressed promptly according to their protocols for employees. If the facility is not equipped to do testing/treatment and you are within 30 minutes of campus, report to Student Health.

Step 4: If you are at an office campus site that is not equipped to do initial testing/treatment and the facility is more than 30 minutes from campus or it is after hours, follow Step 1 and then go to the nearest Emergency Room. Request that they perform post-exposure follow-up. File the visit with your insurance. Any resulting hospital charges should be taken to the Student Affairs Office.

Step 5: Regardless of what facility conducted the initial post-exposure treatment, report the incident to Student Health as soon as possible for determination of whether additional testing is needed .

*** Remember, the speed at which you report the incident and obtain treatment can directly affect the outcome of the exposure.**