

Name of Policy	Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure-Mode of Operation
Policy Number	CHS-PC-25; INF-N-02
Date Effective	May 2001
Date Last Reviewed	March 2019
Responsible for Review	Infection Control Committee

## POLICY

Campus Health Services (CHS) evaluates bloodborne pathogen exposures as outlined in Policy INF-N-03 for all health affairs students (including visiting medical students or other health science students who have an exposure during their official clinical rotation through one of the UNC health science schools). It is necessary to provide this service on a 24-hour basis since these students need to be evaluated and possibly treated immediately. The following outlines the evaluation protocol at different hours of service.

## PROTOCOL

1. During normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 8AM-5PM), the student should call 966-6573 to have an initial, brief telephone discussion with the CHS registered nurse or provider on duty. The student will provide the source patient’s name, date of birth and UNCH medical record number. If the CHS nurse or provider recommends that the student be seen, these evaluations are usually done through appointments. However, they can be expedited in emergent or urgent situations.
2. If the exposure occurs during the time CHS is closed, the student should call 966-6573 or the main CHS phone number, 966-2281, and he/she will be connected to the HealthLink nurse who will contact the CHS physician on-call.
  - a. If the student is doing an away rotation or is in a situation where they cannot be evaluated in the proper time frame at CHS, and needs immediate evaluation and possible treatment, the physician on-call will instruct the student to go to the nearest emergency room, urgent care facility or the closest medical facility that has a provider comfortable assessing bloodborne pathogen exposures.
  - b. As soon as feasible, the CHS physician on-call will notify the student of the source’s lab results.
  - c. If the source is HIV positive and the student is not on prophylaxis, the on-call CHS physician will recommend and prescribe post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). If the student starts PEP, the student will be asked to see a provider as soon as feasible for baseline labs. The CHS provider may consult experts if appropriate. If the source patient is a known HIV patient of UNCH, the CHS provider may contact the UNC ID physician for assistance regarding the PEP regimen.
  - d. If the student is on rotation outside of Chapel Hill, and the source patient is HIV positive, the student should be seen as a patient by a provider in that community as soon as possible. In some cases, this may mean the student is seen by the medical facility’s occupational health provider.

- e. If the student is initially seen at UNC's Emergency Room (e.g. laceration repair when CHS is closed) and seen by the Infectious Disease Fellow, the student will be referred back to CHS for follow-up.

Note: visiting students (rotating through an official rotation through one of UNC's health science schools) can be evaluated initially by the registered nurse and/or by CHS providers. However, their private health insurance (which is a requirement for them to have before they are able to do a rotation at UNC) will be billed for labs that are ordered on their behalf.

- 3. CHS website: <https://campushealth.unc.edu/urgent-needs/health-science-students-blood-borne-pathogen-exposure>

Reviewed by:  
Infection Control Committee

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2019

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