

## Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens Guidelines for Stritch School of Medicine Students:

This document establishes the procedures and financial obligations students face if they may have been exposed to blood borne pathogens (BBP) through blood or other body fluids (by a needle stick, cut, splash or other method of exposure).

If a student is exposed to blood or other bodily fluid:

### IN EVERY INSTANCE, NO MATTER WHAT INSTITUTION:

- **WASH AND NOTIFY**  
The student should immediately wash the affected area and notify their supervisor such as the attending, program director, clinical dean, clerkship director, clerkship coordinator, clinical director, resident, or charge nurse.
- **REPORT TO THAT INSTITUTION'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OHS)**  
If the exposure occurs during business hours, the student should report immediately to that institution's occupational health service (OHS). If the OHS is not open, or does not exist, then the student must report to that institution's Emergency Department (ED).
- **CONTACT THE LOYOLA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OHS)**  
If the exposure occurs between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (M-F) the student must immediately contact the Loyola University OHS. The direct number is 708-531-7900. If the exposure is outside of these hours, or on weekends, the student should call the OHS emergency pager at 708-216-8777, pager number 19480 to help insure that prophylaxis begins promptly. The United States Public Health Guidelines state that post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV and hepatitis B "should be initiated as soon as possible, **preferably within hours rather than days of exposure.**" No vaccine or prophylaxis is currently available for the hepatitis C virus. All follow up treatment, if necessary, should be monitored and directed by the Student Health/Occupational Health Service at Loyola.

### IF THE EXPOSURE OCCURS AT LOYOLA:

- The Loyola OHS or ED will order source testing and determine if a treatment plan is necessary. The OHS can also provide the initial dosage of medication and write a prescription ordered for the remainder of the plan. If the Loyola OHS is closed, then ED should perform these same duties.
- Loyola will cover the cost of a visit to its OHS or ED only when the exposure occurs at a Loyola facility. However, all follow up treatment and medications are the financial responsibility of the student through their own insurance and financial resources.

### IF THE EXPOSURE OCCURS AT ANOTHER INSTITUTION:

- SSOM students, who are exposed at rotations away from Loyola, are affected by the business policies of those institutions. There is no overriding agreement at each of these sites that would determine whether or not their institution will cover the cost of treatment and testing involved in the exposure. If the away site fails to cover the expense of the exposure, it is the expectation that the student's own insurance and personal finances will pay for the treatment.
- SSOM students at away rotations may not return to Loyola for testing. Loyola does not have the ability to source test the patient at an off-site location, and the time spent returning to Loyola may close the efficacious treatment window (especially considering the exposure might happen out of state). Loyola does not pay for exposure expenses for treatment at other institutions.
- Because students are not considered employees, they are not subject to coverage under Worker's Compensation insurance.