



Complete Policy Title	Blood Exposure Policy
Approved by	MD Executive Committee
Date of Original Approval	April 2010
Date of Most Recent Approval	
Supersedes/Amends Policy dated	

Blood Exposure Policy

Upon exposure to blood or blood containing secretions, whether by sharps or by splash to mucous membranes or non-intact skin, the student should respond as follows:

1. Immediate first aid to reduce the amount of exposure. Remove contaminated clothing, wash with cold water, and encourage bleeding of wounds.
2. Notify immediate supervisor or most responsible local health professional of the accident.
3. Gather any identifier information concerning the source of the blood.
4. Request testing of the source. If consent is refused, you may be eligible to submit an application under the Mandatory Blood Testing Act to your local Medical Officer of Health. Speak with your supervisor or Employee Health for assistance with this.
5. Depending on location, immediately (within two hours) go to the Employee Health office of the institution where training, Campus Student Health, or to the nearest Emergency Room. Go anyway, even if after two hours.
6. Identify yourself as a medical student with a needlestick injury or other exposure requiring immediate attention.
7. Expect to be assessed as to the severity of your exposure, counseling regarding testing and therapeutic interventions, and, if the exposure is sufficiently serious, an offer of the current post exposure prophylaxis for HIV. Baseline serological testing for hepatitis and HIV will likely be performed.
8. If you cannot get an appropriate response from your training location, contact the Infectious Diseases consultant on call in one of the hospitals.
9. Complete an Injury/Incident Report with McMaster University (within 24 hours). Forms can be obtained on McMaster University's website (<http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/safetyoffice/documents/InjuryIncidentReportFillableJan62012.pdf>), through the MD Program Administrator's Office of your campus, Student Affairs, or on medportal (Undergraduate Forum, Policies and Procedures and Student Affairs website). Please submit to your campus administrator within 24 hours of the incident.
10. For offshore training experiences in areas with HIV endemicity, arrange with the Electives office for guidance of obtaining protective equipment and prophylactic drugs that you can take with you.

11. Following of appropriate procedures and use of personal protective equipment as appropriate should prevent the need for the above responses.