

What should I do if I am exposed to blood or body fluid of a patient?

1. Immediately following an exposure:

- Wash cuts, puncture wounds or skin abrasions with soap and water
- Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigates

“There is no scientific evidence that supports the application of an antiseptic or squeezing of the wound site, as a means to reduce the risk of transmission of a blood borne pathogen.”

CDC July 2003 [“Exposure to Blood”](#)

2. The treating physician/medical designate must obtain [informed consent](#), from the patient source or their [substitute decision maker](#), in order to test for a blood borne pathogen e.g. Hepatitis B virus, Human Immune Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C virus.
3. Have blood drawn promptly on a patient source by order HEPNES STAT (includes Hepatitis B antigen, Hepatitis C and HIV) in Powerchart. Send a light green top vacutainer, with the appropriate label to core lab for testing. DO NOT USE Ministry of Health HIV testing kits.
4. All staff and affiliates advise area management immediately and complete a [Workplace/Injury/Illness/Hazard Event in the Adverse Event Reporting System \(AEMS\)](#). [Be sure to choose Workplace Injury/Illness/Hazard as the event type and not Infection Control](#). If you are a student, medical clerk, or volunteer, only a person with hospital access to the AEMS system can complete this report for you i.e. mentor, preceptor, team leader, coordinator, medical resident (for medical clerks only). You will be added to the system as a participant. In addition be sure to add your demographical information. For further instructions on adding a participant to the AEMS system please review question # 9 *On Frequently Asked Questions about AEMS*.
5. Post exposure follow up treatment. All exposures must be followed up in a timely manner in order to assess and reduce your risk of becoming infected with a blood borne pathogen. If the patient source is known or suspected to be HIV and or Hepatitis B positive, report immediately to one of below locations for follow up.

[Occupational Health and Safety Services](#) (see link for times and locations)

Emergency Departments at Victoria Hospital and University Hospital

(ONLY WHEN OHSS IS CLOSED)