

**POLICY: Protection from Infectious and Environmental Exposures**

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION/ DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE
March 14, 2025	March 14, 2025	Curriculum Committee Office of Student Affairs

**POLICY STATEMENT**

HWCOM follows the policies of FIU and clinical affiliates regarding exposure to infectious and environmental hazards on and off campus. The policies and procedures of clinical affiliates are outlined in all clinical affiliation agreements. Any accidents or other incidents involving medical students (e.g., airborne exposures, bloodborne pathogen exposures, or needle sticks) must be reported to the HWCOM Office of Student Affairs.

FIU Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

FIU has a Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan in place to protect students from the risks of being occupationally infected with HIV, HBV, or other bloodborne pathogens, and to implement the United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standard 29 CFR Section 1910.1030 Bloodborne Pathogens. OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030 applies to persons (students) who, in the normal course of their job, have the potential for exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and require prevention training.

Training Students about Methods of Prevention

HWCOM provides its medical students with education about methods of prevention and appropriate policies and procedures to follow if they are injured or potentially exposed to environmental hazards, bloodborne pathogens or other communicable diseases. Medical students receive information through a mandatory annual online OSHA course about airborne and bloodborne pathogens, handling biohazardous waste, and personal protective equipment.

All students are required to participate in N-95 respirator fit test training and to have an N-95 respirator mask fit test performed in AYs 1, 3 and 4; any student who is unable to be fitted with a respirator mask must sign a waiver. Students who do not complete the course and/or the fitting are not permitted to rotate with clinical affiliates.

Post-Exposure Care and Treatment

A student who becomes exposed to airborne or bloodborne biohazardous materials, including needlestick injuries and respiratory pathogens, must follow established protocols at HWCOM and their clinical site to receive timely diagnostic and therapeutic care.

Students are responsible for the payment of fees associated with the services rendered with airborne exposures, needlesticks, and other types of injuries, including filing health insurance claims. Students can contact the Office of Student Affairs for assistance in filing a claim.

#### SCOPE

This policy applies to all medical students.

#### REASON FOR POLICY

This policy describes the protocol implemented by HWCOT to protect students from environmental exposures and the risks of being occupationally infected with bloodborne pathogens.

This policy relates to LCME Element 12.8 which states that: "medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards."

#### DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
N/A	N/A

#### RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
Director of Compliance, Office of Student Affairs

#### RELATED RESOURCES

Related Federal Regulation:  
United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)  
Standard 29 CFR Section 1910.1030 Bloodborne Pathogens

Related Policy or Procedure:  
[FIU Blood-borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#)  
Procedure, Protection from Infectious and Environmental Exposures

#### CONTACTS

Questions about this policy should be directed towards the Director of Compliance, Office of Student Affairs.

#### POLICY HISTORY

**Initial Effective Date:** March 14, 2025

**Review Dates** (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

**Revision Dates** (*updates made to document*): March 14, 2025

**PROCEDURE: Protection from Infectious and Environmental Exposures**

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**PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

Students who experience needlestick, exposure to biohazardous material, and other types of injuries at any location (i.e., on campus, hospitals, ambulatory clinics, or neighborhood households) must immediately:

- Receive first aid and initial care at the site where the injury occurred;
- Contact their supervising faculty and report the name of the source patient and diagnosis;
- Complete required incident report forms at the clinical site, and report all exposure to the HWCOC Office of Student Affairs;
- File the required Exposure Incident Report with the FIU Department of Environmental Health and Safety in accordance with the FIU Bloodborne Pathogen exposure Control Plan. Students can contact the Office of Student Affairs for assistance in completing this form.

Students may receive follow-up care and treatment for exposures that occur at off-campus clinical or household sites either at the affiliated clinical site, at the FIU Student Health Services clinic, or from their private physicians.