Responding to a Needlestick or Biological Exposure

Standard Operating Procedure

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An infectious agent is a viable micro-organism, or its toxin, which causes or may cause disease in humans or animals, and includes those agents listed in 42 CFR 72 or any other agent that causes or may cause severe, disabling, or fatal disease. Examples of infectious agents include:

- Infectious Agents
- Recombinant DNA
- Transgenic animals
- Select Agents
- Human derived tissues, fluid, and cells
- Biological toxins
- Animal tissue, fluids, and cells (Known or suspected of being infectious)

Use the following procedure when an individual is exposed to an infectious agent by a:

- Needlestick
- Injury from another sharp object
- Splash of fluid

Procedure: Responding to a Needlestick or Biological Exposure

STEP 1: How did the exposure to the infectious agent occur? By a:
- Needlestick or cut, go to Step 2.
- Splash of fluid, go to Step 3.

STEP 2: Wash the needlestick or cut with soap and water, then go to Step 4.

STEP 3: Where did the splash make contact with the individual? In the:
- Nose, mouth, or skin, flush area with water. Go to Step 4.
- Eyes, then irrigate the eyes with water or a saline solution. Go to Step 4.

STEP 4: Report the incident to your Supervisor and through the following system:
- Call OHS at 734-936-6266 and Enter Pager ID # 5356 (Available 24/7/365)
- Enter a phone number for a return call
- Wait for a return call from an OHS nurse who will document the incident and further instruct the individual on need for medical evaluation including testing or vaccination at OHS or ER.

STEP 5: Complete the following forms:
- Illness or Injury Report Form and submit it to Work Connections
- Incident and Near Miss Report and submit to EHS

STEP 7: Upon return to work, cover injury with a water-proof wrapping, or some other impervious dressing, to prevent further contamination.