

Tulane University Health Sciences Center



School of Medicine School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Graduate Programs in Health Sciences

Information for students who sustain educationally related exposures to blood-borne pathogens or toxins or who sustain physical injuries related to their participation in educational training programs at Tulane University

In the course of education and training at any one of the Tulane University Health Sciences schools students may, on rare occasions, be inadvertently exposed to blood-borne pathogens or toxins or be injured while engaged in a training activity. Examples of such exposures and injuries would include accidental needle sticks or splashes with bodily fluid, but would also include twisting an ankle during the actual performance of an educational task, like moving a patient.

This guide is to facilitate your process of getting immediate and proper assistance should you experience any of these untoward events. You should follow the instructions below if you have been exposed to a blood-borne pathogen or toxin or injured while doing your education or training.

IMMEDIATE CARE:

If you have been splashed with bodily fluid or sustained a needle stick, immediately flush the area with water for 5 minutes in the case of eyes or mucous membranes or wash an area of skin for 5 minutes using Betadine® or Hibiclens® or any available soap.

In the case of injuries, be sure that you have addressed the immediate problem (stemmed the flow of bleeding or iced an injury, for instance) and if you do not need 911-ambulance level of care, follow the procedure below. If you do need ambulance care, have someone call 911 immediately.

ARRANGING FOR CARE FOR INJURIES/EXPOSURES AFTER IMMEDIATE CARE:

1. Monday through Friday (8A to 4P) if you are in the New Orleans area, you should report to the Downtown Student Health Center located in Elk's Place on the main downtown campus. (See the map attached to this form.) The New Orleans area generally means any part of Orleans Parish or one of the contiguous Parishes, such as Jefferson Parish.
2. At all other times (after hours, weekends, Holidays, etc.), if you are in the United States you must contact the Student Health Center Physician on-call. The on-call physician may be reached by calling the following pager number and punching in your callback number. Please stay at that phone for at least 30 minutes. This physician is available 24-7-365. You should make this call no matter where in the United States you are located. This physician will call long-distance numbers.
The contact pager phone number is: 504-538-7277. **

*** Students training outside the United States do not need to call, but instead should follow the procedure of the International program in which they are involved to obtain medical services.*

3. When the Student Health Center Physician contacts you, you will be instructed where to go after-hours for assessment and treatment of your exposure/injury. If you are in the New Orleans region, you will be referred to the Tulane University Hospital and Clinics Emergency Department. If you are outside this area, you will most likely be instructed to go to the Emergency Department affiliated with the institution at which you are doing your training.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS NOT TO DO

- 1) Do not fail to report such injuries or exposures. We know it is a hassle to take the time to address these injuries and exposures, but in terms of your long-term health and your ability to get appropriate care from the institution responsible for providing care to you, you **MUST** report these injuries.
- 2) Do not go the Emergency Department in or near the facility at which you are training unless your injury is immediately life threatening. Call the on-call physician first. Tulane University has specific agreements in place with various facilities to address your injuries and exposures in an efficient manner and provide us with the needed documentation to follow up your injury/exposure. If you are out of town, you will be referred to a convenient facility, but we will need to be sure we know which facility you will be using so that we can communicate with their staff on your behalf.
- 3) Faculty and Housestaff Physicians may offer you a variety of well-meaning advice if you are injured while on their clinical service. Please **do not take that advice**, but instead either present to the Student Health Center or contact the Student Health Center Physician on-call as directed.
- 4) Do not follow up with any Occupational Medicine Clinic in any other hospital or clinic. Tulane University Student Health Services is responsible for the care of all students who sustain an educational exposure or injury.

EACH TULANE HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A WALLET CARD CONTAINING CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW IN CASE OF AN INJURY/EXPOSURE DURING ANY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY. PLEASE KEEP IT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

REMEMBER, STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS CONTACT THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER OR PAGE THE ON-CALL STUDENT HEALTH CENTER PHYSICIAN IF AN INJURY/EXPOSURE IS SUSTAINED. WE ARE GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHETHER YOU SHOULD CONTACT US OR NOT.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER: 504-988-6929

ON-CALL PHYSICIAN PAGER: 504-538-7277

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