



University of Western States trains students and employees who have a reasonable risk of exposure to biohazardous substances in the prevention and treatment of needlestick and blood/body fluid exposure.

Students and employees are required to report to their instructor or supervisor if they experience a needlestick or exposure to blood or body fluids. The instructor or supervisor is responsible for ensuring that established procedures are followed to protect against the spread of infectious disease. The instructor or supervisor completes a bloodborne exposure report detailing the route of exposure, the circumstances under which the exposure occurred, and the individuals exposed.

The university investigates exposure incidents to determine the cause of incident and whether there is need for additional protective equipment and/or training/retraining of individuals.

For exposed individuals, the university provides and/or reimburses medical treatments and follow-up care that are approved by the Quality Patient Care Committee. UWS maintains confidentiality regarding the incident and the individuals involved. Requests for approval and reimbursement for treatment and/or follow-up care are submitted to the AVP of clinical services.

I. Responding to a Needlestick or Body Fluid Exposure

In the event of a needlestick or body fluid exposure, authorized university personnel:

- Assess the risk factors associated with the exposure;
- Follow established first aid procedures;
- Refer the exposed individual for testing and/or treatment, including the application of post-exposure prophylaxis, as indicated;
- Document the incident using the safety incident report; and
- Record the incident in the UWS log of injuries.

Additional information about the university response and first aid procedures is available in the UWS clinic.

II. Follow-up Care

Follow-up care related to needlestick or blood/body fluid exposure is available through the university. Referrals to an outside contracted organization are available as approved by the Quality Patient Care Committee.

III. Risk Mitigation and Training

University of Western States minimizes risk of needlesticks and body fluid exposure through a combination of administrative or work practice controls, engineering controls, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Policy 1014 Needlestick and Body Fluid Exposure

Established: 02/08/1989

Revision History: 02/26/2025, 02/08/2022, 08/30/2012, 03/02/2006, 03/16/2004, 02/02/2001, 06/09/2000, 03/16/1999, 10/22/1993



The university provides training on the use of safety devices, work practices, and PPE at least once per year to employees and students who are at risk for exposure. Training records are maintained by the chief medical officer or their designee for three years.

Following an exposure, the university assesses existing mitigation strategies to determine whether additional risk mitigation is possible and/or whether additional training is needed.

Related Policies: [Policy 1003 Accident /Injury/Incident Response](#)
 [Policy 1020 Hazardous Materials Handling](#)

Key Words: accident, biohazard, blood, bloodborne, body fluid, confidentiality, exposure, injury, investigate, needlestick, pathogen, risk, train, waste

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