



## Guidelines for Post -Exposure to Biological Materials

Standard Precautions are intended to prevent the transmission of common infectious agents. Therefore appropriate precautions, including use of applicable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), must be taken.

Any exposure to biological materials and near miss incidents are to be reported. These materials include such organisms as bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, prions, zoonotic pathogens, toxins, recombinant and synthetic DNA, viral vectors and blood and body fluids. Exposures may occur during a splash to unprotected eyes, nose or mouth or contamination on unprotected skin.

**IMPORTANT:** If contamination has occurred to an open skin area or to the eyes, nose or mouth, immediately flush/wash the affected area for at least 15 minutes or until help arrives.

**ANYTIME** you suspect you may have been exposed to blood & body fluids, or other infectious materials or toxins, you should follow these steps:

**1. Emergency first aid/Reporting** – If first aid is required, it should take precedence over everything else. If emergency first aid is not required, immediately inform your supervisor of the details of the exposure. The supervisor is required to submit an incident report outlining the details of the exposure.

[www.mun.ca/MIMS](http://www.mun.ca/MIMS)

**2. Medical testing/treatment** – As soon as possible, report to the emergency department of the closest local hospital for prescribed testing/treatment.

**3. Follow-up** – The Biological Safety Officer (BSO) will follow up with the individual exposed and his/her supervisor to review the incident. During this follow-up, a root cause of the exposure will be identified and preventative measures put in place to minimize the likelihood of reoccurrence. Please notify the Occupational Health Nurse (OHN) of any medical updates that arise out of this incident

Always **dial 4100** day or night for any incidents and Campus Enforcement and Patrol (CEP) will provide an immediate response.

For concerns and questions regarding recognized or suspected biological exposures on campus, notify MUN's BSO at 864-8250.

July 27, 2015

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