



8.12 Blood Borne Pathogens

“Blood borne pathogens” refers to disease-causing microorganisms present in blood or potentially infectious body fluids. If exposed to a potential blood borne pathogen, report it immediately to Campus Safety and fill out an incident report. A Campus Safety Officer will fill out an accident report form.

The steps listed below are to be taken in response to a “high-risk” exposure incident, which is defined as an accidental puncture injury, mucus membrane, or non-intact skin exposure to human blood or body fluid. A high-risk exposure should be considered infectious, regardless of the source.

8.12.1 High-risk exposure

- Immediately and thoroughly wash the exposed site with soap and water, or flush the eye and mucus membrane with water or saline for 15 minutes.
- Report the incident to your supervisor immediately.
- Notify Campus Safety (Dial 3218), who will notify the appropriate personnel.
- Exposed individuals may be taken to Highline Community Hospital Emergency Room located at 16251 Sylvester Rd. SW. Burien, WA. The emergency room phone number is (206) 244-5314. You may also call 206-878-3710 extension 3218 to contact the nearest medical facility if outside the Des Moines area to receive treatment for possible exposure to HBV/HIV and/or other preventative therapy initiated as indicated.
- If you are unsure whether the above pertains to your situation, call the Highline Community Hospital Emergency Room at (206) 244-5314.

Contact with the following bodily fluids or materials are **not** covered by this section: semen, feces, nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, spit, sweat, tears, urine, and vomit. If any of the preceding bodily fluids contain visible blood, then follow the high-risk procedures listed above.

If the exposed person does not consent to post-exposure information being released, the only information provided to the College will be a written report indicating whether a Hepatitis B vaccine was recommended for the exposed person and whether the person received the vaccination. The written report will be kept separately from the exposed person’s personnel file.

8.12.2 Cleanup of Bodily Fluids Containing Blood

If a spill or contaminated area is in a College building, contact Campus Safety (Dial 3218)