

## OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE PREVENTION POLICY

VUMC is committed to promoting a safe and healthful work environment for all personnel, including House Staff and students, and to minimizing personnel exposure to occupational hazards, including those associated with bloodborne pathogens. All House Staff and other care providers at VUMC observe Standard Precautions with all patients in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards to prevent occupational exposure to such materials.

Faculty and House Staff are important role models for students and less experienced House Staff and should be guided in the clinical situation first by safety, educational benefits, and situational experience by the House Staff. A House Staff or student that experiences a blood borne pathogen exposure must submit a Veritas report and seek immediate evaluation and consultation with:

- **Occupational Health Clinic** at 640 Medical Arts Building during regular business hours of 7:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday or
- **Adult Emergency Room**, if the injury occurs after the regular business hours listed above. The injured person should contact Occupational Health the following business day to initiate follow up care. The injured person can also start by contacting the Occupational Health provider-on-call by calling the main OHC phone number (615-936-0955) and asking for the provider on call. The provider can assess the injury and determine if it can be handled by telehealth with OHC follow up next business day or if an in-person visit in the ED is needed.

When a House Staff is aware of a student who experiences an occupational exposure, they should direct that student to follow these same steps. The House Staff also may direct the student to the Student Health Clinic for further counseling after following the above guidelines.

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Medical students and House Staff should be advised to follow all radiation safety guidelines. In the event of personal contamination with radioactive material, or loss of containment of radioactive material, the House Staff / medical student should contact **Office of Clinical Research Safety (OCRS)** at (615) 322-2057 (for after-hours emergencies call (615) 875-3779) for an immediate risk assessment and decontamination if needed. House Staff working around radioactive material or x-ray devices who become pregnant should review the OCRS Declared Pregnant Worker site at:  
<https://www.vumc.org/safety/rad/declared-pregnant-worker>.

**Revisions Reviewed and Approved by GMEC: 04/14/2023**