

STANDARD ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

24.01.01.M4.01 Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control

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Standard Administrative Procedure Statement

Texas A&M University is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment. In accordance with the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter H, and analogous to OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, Texas A&M University has established a University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan to prevent, or minimize, the exposure of employees, students and others to Bloodborne Pathogens and Other Potentially Infectious Materials.

Definitions

Blood includes human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.

Bloodborne Pathogens are pathogenic microorganisms and/or viruses present in human blood that can cause diseases in humans, including, but not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan is maintained by the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety and outlines assessment and risk mitigation steps to eliminate or minimize individual occupational exposure to human and non-human primate blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Engineering Controls are designed to eliminate or minimize personnel exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens and Other Potentially Infectious Materials by removing or isolating the hazard or by isolating the individual from exposure.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) include the following: 1) human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids and blood; 2) any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human or non-human primate, living or dead; 3) HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

Work Practice Controls establish standard practices by which a task is performed. Proper Work Practice Controls include proper hygienic procedures, specimen collection procedures, contaminated equipment management, and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.

Official Process

1. GENERAL

Employing departments are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Standard Administrative Procedure and the Texas A&M University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan. The Texas Department of State Health Services Bloodborne Pathogens Rule requires that the University conduct an “exposure determination” for employees whose occupational duties create a reasonable expectation for exposure to Blood, or OPIM. The exposure determination should be made regardless of the intervening use of gloves, masks or other personal protective equipment and must result in the creation of a list of all job classifications in which University employees are determined to have occupational exposure regardless of the frequency of exposure. The University job titles/classifications, which have occupational exposure, are listed in the University’s Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan maintained by the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety (RCB).

2. METHODS OF COMPLIANCE

Engineering Controls and Work Practice Controls are the primary means for reducing occupational Bloodborne Pathogens and OPIM risks, and meeting compliance requirements.

2.1 Engineering and Work Practice Controls shall be examined, maintained or replaced on a regular schedule to ensure their effectiveness in accordance with the University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.

2.2 Appropriate protective equipment shall be provided to individuals and cleaned or laundered, repaired or disposed of, at no cost to such individuals. Facility sanitation conditions shall be maintained in accordance with the University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.

3. HEPATITIS B VACCINATION PROGRAM

All individuals who have been identified as having occupational exposure to Blood or OPIM at Texas A&M University shall be offered the hepatitis B vaccine (HBV), and any necessary boosters, at no cost to such individuals and in accordance with the University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan. Individuals who decline the HBV must sign a *Declination of Vaccination Statement*. Individuals who later elect to

receive the HBV may have the vaccine provided at no cost to the individual. .

4. POST-EXPOSURE EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP

4.1 In the event of an occupational exposure, the individual responsible for reporting the incident to his/her supervisor; the supervisor must complete a TWCC-1 First Report of Injury or Illness form and notify the Environmental Health and Safety Department and the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety immediately.

4.2 If a biological exposure is known or suspected, the supervisor and the injured individual must complete and submit an Exposure Incident Report Form to the Biosafety Occupational Health Program in the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety.

4.3 The Biosafety Occupational Health Program in the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety is responsible for ensuring that appropriate evaluation and follow up measures are taken and that required records are maintained as required by the University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan.

5. USE OF BIOHAZARD LABELS

Any work area or object that has the potential to be exposed to blood or other infectious materials shall be identified by use of warning labels and/or color-coding.

6. TRAINING

Bloodborne pathogen training must be provided to individuals prior to their initial assignment to tasks where occupational exposure may occur. Annual refresher training shall be provided within one year of the individual's previous training. Additional training is to be provided as new information is acquired or job duties change.

7. RECORDKEEPING

Confidential employee medical records shall be maintained by the Biosafety Occupational Health Program within the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety as appropriate to document compliance with the provisions of the University Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan. These records shall be maintained in accordance with the Biosafety Occupational Health Records Retention Schedule.

8. CONTAMINATED SHARPS INJURY LOG

The required information related to a contaminated sharps injury shall be reported to the Workers Compensation Insurance division of the System Office of Risk Management and Safety.

The System Office of Risk Management and Safety provides the required reporting information to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Supplements [System Policy 24.01](#) and [System Regulation 24.01.01](#)

29 C.F.R. 1910

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard

Texas Health and Safety Code Section 81.304

University Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan

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