

NEEDLESTICK / SHARPS / SPLASH INJURY GUIDANCE

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING:

- Needlestick / sharps / splash injury with exposure to potentially infectious material; or
- Splash of human body fluid to eyes / mouth; or
- Human scratch / bite

APPLY FIRST AID MEASURES AND IMMEDIATE IRRIGATION

WOUNDS:

- Encourage bleeding – **DO NOT SUCK**
- Wash well under running water using soap – **DO NOT SCRUB**
- Cover with a dry dressing

SPLASH INCIDENTS:

- If in the mouth: rinse mouth out several times with cold water – **DO NOT SWALLOW**
- If into eyes: remove contact lenses (if applicable), irrigate eyes well with cold, running water

REPORT INCIDENT TO YOUR LINE MANAGER OR SUPERVISOR:

In conjunction with your manager, assess the Blood Borne Virus (BBV) infection risk – this will depend on the nature of the hazard associated with the incident. Record details of the source of the (potentially) infectious material, if known.

If the hazard is an unused, clean sharp which is definitely uncontaminated then complete an Accident Report Form. If concerned, seek further advice from the contacts listed on the right.

If the **BBV Status** of the hazard source is **unknown**, from an unused or dirty sharp; a human bite or scratch; human bodily fluid splash to eye or mucous membranes; contamination of a cut or open skin lesion: CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT FROM THE LIST OPPOSITE **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

If the **BBV Status** of the hazard source is **known to be HIV, HEP B or HEP C positive**, for example: from an unused or dirty sharp; a human bite or scratch; human bodily fluid splash to eye or mucous membranes; contamination of a cut or open skin lesion: CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT FROM THE LIST OPPOSITE **IMMEDIATELY**

CONTACT

- * **If injured on a non-hospital site contact:**
QUB Occupational Health
028 9504 0275
Monday – Friday, 8.30am – 4.30pm
- * **If injured on a hospital site, contact the relevant Trust's OH department.**
- * **If injured outside normal hours, contact Accident & Emergency department:**
RVH 02890 240503
Mater Hospital 02890 741211
Ulster Hospital 02890 484511
- * **If the incident occurs off-site or outside normal working hours then notify QUB Occupational Health the next working day.**

BLOOD-BORNE VIRUS RISK MAY ARISE FROM:

human blood, amniotic fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, breast milk, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, pleural fluid, blood stained saliva, synovial fluid, semen, vaginal secretions, unfixed human tissue, any visibly bloodstained fluid, exudate from burns or skin lesions; and can be introduced via any break in the skin (needle, bite, cut) or a splash to the eye or mouth.



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