

SAA 008 12.8 Medical Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards Policy

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Responsible Office: Student Affairs & Admissions
Responsible for Oversight: Student Affairs & Admissions
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Training Required: No
LCME Required: Yes

Approved by:



Alison Netski, MD, Interim Dean

Date: July 7, 2025

Definitions

Exposure: Skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood, potentially infectious materials, or environmental hazards that may result from the performance of a student's duties.

Potentially Infectious Material:

- Bodily fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.
- Unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead).
- 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.

Statement of Purpose

This policy is intended to ensure compliance with LCME Standard 12.8: A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:

- The education of medical students about methods of prevention
- The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
- The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities

All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.

Entities Affected by This Policy

This policy applies to all actively enrolled medical students (including visiting students) at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV.

Required Acknowledgement

This policy is posted in the appropriate catalog(s) and/or syllabi, and accessible for student and faculty reference.

Policy

Education

At freshman orientation, and each year thereafter, medical students receive training regarding infectious and environmental hazards, including how to safely avoid exposure during required medical school courses and clinical experiences. This training must be completed in person for all incoming medical students. Subsequent training is completed online on WebCampus.

Completion of training regarding exposure to infectious and environmental hazards is considered a professional responsibility for medical students and is required for enrollment in the Medical Degree program. The Office of Student Affairs is responsible for monitoring student completion of required training. Students who fail to complete training will not be allowed to participate in educational activities and may be referred to the Medical Student Progress Committee for disciplinary action. Visiting medical students must complete online training before they are allowed to begin clinical rotations. Failure to complete training may result in their removal from the UNLV externship program.

Procedures for Care and Treatment After Exposure

If an exposure occurs, the student should wash the exposed area with soap and water. If bleeding (e.g., due to a needlestick injury), the wound should be allowed to bleed freely. If blood or other potentially contaminated material has entered the eye, nose, or mouth, the area should be flushed with water for 15 minutes.

When an exposure occurs, students must notify supervising faculty at the time of the incident. The supervising faculty and the student are responsible for notifying the Office of Student Affairs within 24 hours of the incident. Incidents may be reported by calling or emailing the dean for student affairs and career services and by completing the online [exposure incident report form](#).

If an exposure occurs on campus, UNLV protocols must be followed. Complete information is available [online](#).

If an exposure occurs at a clinical affiliate facility, the student and faculty must follow the occupational exposure protocols of that facility. These protocols will be communicated to students during orientation at the clinical partner facility. The Office of Student Affairs is responsible for verifying this information is communicated to students. This requirement also will be included in all affiliation agreements, as required, for clinical affiliates and community partners.

Students who experience an exposure Monday – Friday during regular business hours, and who DO NOT require emergency medical care, should follow up with UNLV Student Health Center. Students who require urgent or emergent care after an on-campus exposure should seek care from the closest available urgent/emergent care facility.

When an exposure takes place at a clinical affiliate facility, the facility's protocol should include referral to on-site emergency or urgent care, depending upon the medical requirements of the exposure. The facility is responsible for ensuring the source individual is identified and documented. Baseline blood samples should be taken of the source individual and the student. Results of the individual and the student's baseline must be disclosed to the student and to the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at UNLV Office of Student Affairs. Students are required to submit to baseline and required follow up testing to determine their status post-exposure and to maintain health safety for themselves and their patients.

If an exposure occurs, UNLV will assist students who have out of pocket deductible costs up to a maximum of \$250 per exposure. Students are financially responsible for any healthcare services provided by clinical affiliate facilities or others.

Effects of Infectious Disease or Disability on Medical Student Training

If a medical student acquires an infectious and/or environmental disease or becomes disabled after matriculating, whether or not it is a direct result of the medical education program, the student will be allowed to complete the program as long as the student still meets the school's technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

Review of Policy

This policy shall be reviewed by the dean for student affairs and career services and Curriculum Oversight Committee at least annually from the effective date.

Related Documents

None

Contacts

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