

## Bloodborne Pathogens

Last updated: [06/20/2019](#)

This policy is mandatory for any technician, visiting scholar, undergraduate, summer and graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, research associate, assistant scientist or any other Netz Lab member working with clinical blood samples or otherwise potentially infectious materials. The following definitions apply:

- [1] **Exposure** is defined as any type of dangerous contact with a potentially infectious material. Examples of exposure include a) a percutaneous injury, for example needlestick or cut, involving blood, tissue or other body fluid; b) mucus membrane or non-intact skin contact with blood, tissue or other body fluid; c) prolonged contact of intact skin with blood, tissue or other body fluid; d) any direct contact with concentrated HIV.
- [2] Other **body fluids** are those with known or unknown risk of transmitting a bloodborne virus. In the case of **HIV**, those include semen, vaginal secretions, and urine or saliva that is visibly contaminated with blood. With unknown risk is cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial or amniotic fluids. In the case of **HBV** or **HCV**, the above remain true, but other body fluids also include saliva, sputum, and vomit.
- [3] **Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)** is the preventative treatment to reduce the risk of bloodborne pathogen transmission after an exposure.
- [4] **High Risk Sources** are samples from patients that have an elevated chance of infection with a blood borne pathogen. For **HIV**, high risk sources include infected patients, injection drug users, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals, individuals with known sexual contact with multiple partners, and individuals with known sexual contact with any of the above. For **HBV** and **HCV**, high risk sources include the above plus hemodialysis patients and transfusion recipients.

**Before working with potentially infectious materials, lab members must read and sign this document in addition to completing the Hopkins online training for Bloodborne Pathogens, available [here](#).**

**In the event of an exposure to potentially infectious materials, follow the below steps to ensure your health and safety.**

### Report the Incident

Immediately tell Dr. Netz Arroyo upon exposure to blood, tissue, or body fluids. Should he not be available, find another member of the lab and inform them.

### Clean the Area

Using assistance as needed, flush the exposed area with plenty of water. Wash with soap if possible.

### Seek Treatment

Collect as much information as possible about the exposure (how it happened, what part of the body was exposed, how bad is the injury, etc.) and the sample you were exposed to (patient record number, risk factor, test results, etc.). After collecting the maximum information, call the exposure hotline at **410-955-STIX (955-7849)** to discuss immediate action. Should the operator inform you to seek medical treatment at either the emergency room or the occupational injury clinic, Dr. Netz Arroyo or the alternative lab member is to accompany you there.

File a Report

If not already in possession of such knowledge, Dr. Netz Arroyo will follow up through the necessary avenues to determine the sample information, for example the status of HIV, HBV, and HCV, and whether the source patient is considered high risk. Once obtained, this information is to be forwarded to the occupational injury clinic along with an incident report written by you. This will be added to your patient file for future reference.

Acknowledgment of Standard Operating Procedure Guidelines and Policies

I certify that I have read and understood the contents of this document and that I will abide by all the policies and guidelines described in it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date