

Incident Response (Personal Exposure, Spills)

Personal Exposure to Potentially Infectious Materials

Contamination to the Body

1. Immediately remove contaminated clothing and drench skin with water. Wash with soap and water, and flush the area for 15 minutes. Avoid the use of bleach and other disinfecting agents that are caustic to the skin.
2. Call 911 for assistance and transportation to Portage Health. Tell the dispatcher that the individual is potentially contaminated with a harmful chemical or biological material so that emergency responders can arrive prepared to deal with the additional hazard.
3. Report the incident to the laboratory supervisor/Principal Investigator and to the University Occupational Safety and Health and Services report form.

Splash to the Eye

1. Immediately flush the eye with a gentle stream of clean, temperate water for 15 minutes. Hold the eyelid open. Be careful not to wash the contaminant into the other eye.
2. Seek additional medical assistance from first aid providers, if necessary. Call 911 for assistance and transportation to Portage Health.
3. Report the incident to the laboratory supervisor/Principal Investigator and to the University Occupational Safety and Health and Services report form.

Punctures/Laceration of the Skin

1. Wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water, and rinse the area for up to 15 minutes.
2. Allow small wounds such as punctures to bleed freely. There is no evidence that additional squeezing or “milking” of the puncture site is beneficial in preventing infection.
3. Control more severe bleeding with direct compression on the wound with sterile dressings. Wear latex rubber or nitrile gloves to prevent exposure to.
4. The application of antiseptics or disinfectants may be beneficial, however, avoid the use of bleach and other disinfecting agents that are caustic to the skin.
5. If necessary call 911 for assistance and transportation to Portage Health.
6. Report the incident to the laboratory supervisor/Principal Investigator and to the University Occupational Safety and Health and Services report form.

Spills

A spill kit containing the following items is available in the laboratory: (i) an appropriate cleaning and disinfectant solution (such as 1:10 dilution of household bleach), (ii) a package of paper towels, (iii) gloves, (iv) autoclave bags, (v) sharps container, (vi) forceps or other mechanical device to pick up broken glass.

Spill of Potentially Infectious Materials

1. Wear gloves and lab coat to clean up spill.
2. Absorb spill with paper towels and discard into a biohazard waste container.
3. If broken glass or other sharps are present, use forceps or another mechanical device to pick up and place into a SHARPS container.
4. Clean the spill site using a detergent solution and follow by spraying or wiping the area liberally with a 1:10 dilution of household bleach.
5. After 15 minutes contact time, wipe the area using towels soaked with a 1:10 bleach solution.
6. Discard all contaminated disposable materials into a biohazard waste container.
7. Remove PPE and wash hands with soap and water.