

NEEDLE STICK PROCEDURES

Post Evaluation & Follow Up:

1. Employees and students at WITC recognize that even with strict adherence to standard precautions and exposure prevention practices, exposure incidents may occur. WITC has a procedure in place to assure appropriate and timely post-exposure follow-up.
 - a. The involved student will report the incident to his/her instructor and then to the College Health Office as soon as possible before the end of his/her work/class day. If after College Health Office hours, or at another clinical site, student will report the next working day.
 - b. If incident occurs at a clinical site, student will follow procedure of clinical unit first. Report the incident to his/her instructor and then to WITC College Health Office at earliest convenience.
 - c. The College Health Nurse will ascertain that an incident investigation report has been completed and if not, will assist in its completion.
 - d. The College Health Nurse will verify that a direct blood exposure has occurred.
 - e. A direct blood exposure flow sheet will be completed immediately.
 - f. Request source person to consent to HIV, HBV testing.
 - 1) If source is negative, no further evaluation is needed.
 - 2) If source is positive, or is unable to verify status, the individual exposed is counseled and should be tested. The testing should be completed through the alternate/anonymous testing site for HIV and either private physician or hospital where exposure occurred for HBV.
 - g. Initial testing of student is completed immediately following exposure to establish a baseline status, and at six (6) weeks, twelve (12) weeks, and six (6) month intervals up to one year. **The costs of these tests, treatments, and/or vaccinations are the responsibility of each individual student.**
 - h. Post-test counseling is performed by the College Health Nurse and by occupational health care professionals.
 - i. The completed incident investigation report will reflect the following areas:
 - 1) Where the incident occurred
 - 2) When it occurred
 - 3) What potentially infectious material was involved
 - 4) Under what circumstances the incident occurred
 - 5) How the incident was caused
 - 6) If personal protective methods were in use
 - 7) What actions were taken as a result of the incident

This information is reviewed by the College Health Nurse at the time of the incident. It is recognized that the information involved in this process must remain confidential, and comply with protecting the privacy of the individuals involved.

2. Interaction with External Clinical Agency Protocol
In the event that the WITC College Health professionals are required to work with external providers, we follow their protocols.
3. Health Occupations students will report to their clinical instructor and the Health Instructional Supervisor following the same procedures as outlined above.