

Subject: Student Needle Stick, Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure and Injury Protocol

Policy:

To ensure a student injured during clinical or laboratory work is treated in a timely and efficient manner including but not limited to needle stick injury. This policy is **not** for employed student workers.

Purpose:

To prevent infectious disease and/or disability and ensure prompt evaluation and treatment of exposures.

Procedure:

- 1) Students who sustain an injury or exposure should report to their clinical leader, the director/manager of the clinical site, and supervising SLU faculty, to notify them of injury/needle stick as soon as possible. School of Medicine MD-seeking students should ensure the Office of Student Affairs is notified.
- 2) The [Non-Employee Injury Report](#) should be completed within 48 hours of the incident and email to riskmgmt@slu.edu
- 3) Students should first follow protocol of the clinical location for initial laboratory workup, source testing, treatment, and/or imaging.
- 4) If clinical site does not have an affiliated Emergency Department (ED) or Employee Health, student should go through SSM-Saint Louis University Hospital (SLUH) ED. If a clinical site is out of state or not within reasonable distance to SLUH, student should go to the nearest ED and follow their protocol for Bloodborne pathogen exposure and/or traumatic injury work up including but not limited to imaging recommendations.
- 5) Nonclinical/research students should report to SLUH ED. If clinical research is being done in a different state or beyond a reasonable distance to SLUH, students should proceed to the nearest ED and guidelines followed according to their protocol for Bloodborne pathogen exposure and/or traumatic injury work up including but not limited to imaging recommendations.
- 6) If a traumatic injury or exposure occurs and assistance is not sought immediately following injury, the student can come to the Student Health Center (SHC) for work up if not in immediate urgent distress. Student will be assessed by Registered Nurse (RN) to first determine emergent need and will make recommendations based on this assessment (ED vs SHC)
- 7) All follow up laboratory work and imaging can be managed through SHC and recommendations from the initial evaluating site will be followed if available, if not, standard protocol will be followed.
- 8) Students and source patients are required to obtain their own transportation to the testing/treatment site, if emergency transportation is not required. Students may utilize DPS for transportation if the incident occurred on Saint Louis University campus and treatment is sought at SLUH or SHC.
- 9) Any student medical expenses incurred related to the incident will be the responsibility of the student and/or the student's health insurance plan. Expense assistance may be available at the discretion of the individual department or school.