

Medical Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards Procedure

Office of Accountability:	Associate Dean, MD Program, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	MD Program
Approver:	MD Curriculum & Program Committee
Scope:	Compliance with this protocol extends to all members of the MD Program at the University of Alberta irrespective of the geographically distributed site at which they are located.

OVERVIEW

This procedure provides the steps required to address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards or injury.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

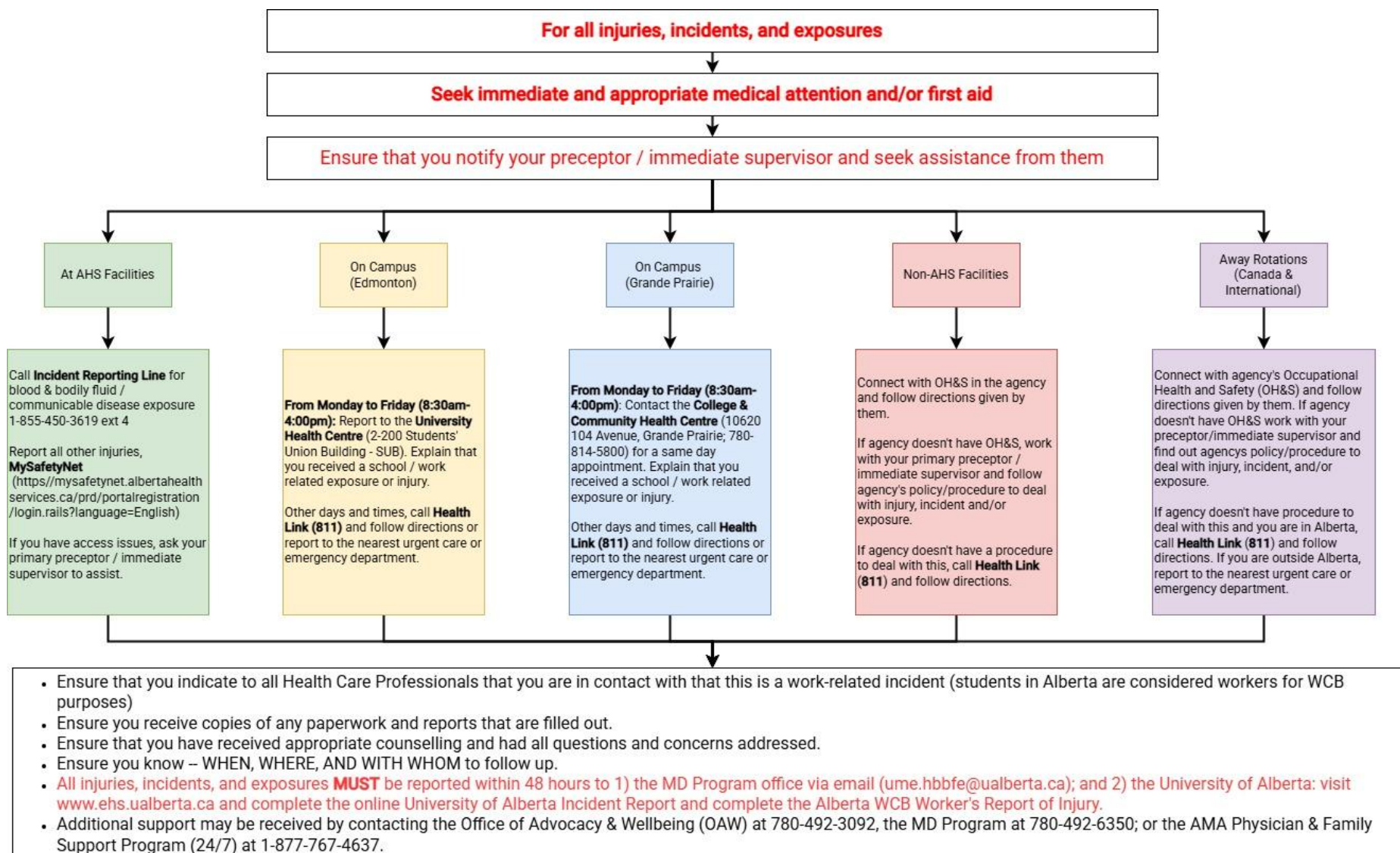
This policy addresses standard 12.8 (Student Exposure Policies/Procedures) of the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), which states:

Standard 12.8 A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including:

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

PROTOCOL

The following algorithm applies to any injury, incident, or exposure, including: human blood/body fluid exposure or airborne exposure (e.g. tuberculosis).



RELATED POLICIES

[Policy on the Effects of Infectious and Environmental Disease or Disability on Medical Student Learning Activities](#)

[AHS Guide to Potential Patient Exposures: Blood and Body Fluid Exposure Decision Chart](#) (See Appendix 1)

DEFINITIONS

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.

BBF Blood or Body Fluid Exposure	Blood or Body Fluid Exposure is the result of an event where a person is exposed to potentially infectious blood or bodily fluids through one of the following: • Percutaneous exposure through puncture of skin by needlestick or another sharp object • Permucosal exposure through contact with mucous membranes • Non-intact skin exposure through eczema, scratches, and damaged skin
BBP Blood Borne Pathogen	Blood Borne Pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
CACMS Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools	The Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) ensures that Canadian medical faculties' MD programs meet the quality expected when producing tomorrow's doctors. Medical schools demonstrating compliance are afforded accreditation, a necessary condition for a program's graduates to be licensed as physicians.
CPSA	The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta

RELATED LINKS

[Alberta Health Services \(AHS\) Facilities \(University Hospital, Royal Alexandra Hospital, Glenrose Hospital, Sturgeon Hospital, Community Health, Home Care, etc.\)](#)

[Community Placements](#)

[Covenant Health Facilities \(Grey Nuns Hospital, Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton General Hospital\)](#)

APPROVAL HISTORY

APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
MD Program Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved	23 August 2016
Dr. Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean	minor edits for consistent formatting, updating links, and change Learner Advocacy & Wellness to Office of Advocacy & Wellbeing (OAW)	15 June 2020
MD Curriculum & Program Committee (MDCPC)	Approved with updated links and editorial changes	21 October 2021
MD Curriculum & Program Committee (MDCPC)	Approved with updated algorithm and procedure	20 March 2025



Appendix 1: Alberta Health Services Algorithm

