



Policy for Needlestick and Body-Fluid Exposures

If you sustain an injury with a needle or other sharp object that has been exposed to another person's body fluids, or if you splash body fluid onto broken skin, you may be at risk to contract infectious disease. If you sustain a needlestick injury, take the following actions immediately:

- Wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water immediately
- Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water
- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigates
- Seek medical treatment from the nearest the emergency department.
- Notify your supervisor/instructor and the school immediately
- Initiate the injury reporting system used in your clinical setting policies if on externship.
- Document the exposure in detail, for your own records as well as for any future reference. Give a copy to the instructor to forward it to PTHC
- Follow your Doctor's recommendation
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that for maximum protection, you should receive treatment within two hours of exposure.

For more information, call the National Clinicians Hotline at 1(888) 448-4911.

