

 <p><b>DALHOUSIE</b> UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF MEDICINE</p> <p><b>First-Aid Workplace Exposure Guideline</b></p>	<p><b>Responsible unit:</b> Undergraduate Medical Education Office</p>	<p><b>Established:</b></p> <p><b>Last revised:</b> September 2023</p>
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#### A. Background & Purpose

This guideline outlines the process to follow if a student suffers an injury in their clinical placement (i.e, needle stick injury, exposure to blood or body fluids, etc. ).

#### B. Application

This guideline applies to all enrolled undergraduate medical students in all years, including visiting elective students.

#### C. Definitions

- **Entering students** refers to those admitted to the undergraduate medicine program.
- **Returning students** are students returning to Pre-Clerkship, Clerkship or Med 5.
- **Visiting elective student** refers to any student working in a Dalhousie-affiliated clinical setting for a clerkship elective who is registered in an MD Program at another medical school
- An **enrolled student** is any student actively registered and participating in the program.
- **Occupational Health Safety and Wellness** refers to the office in the Nova Scotia Health Authority that addresses workplace safety and exposures for faculty, staff, and learners.
- **Employee Health** refers to the office in the Horizon Health Network that addresses workplace safety and exposures for faculty, staff, and learners.
- **Occupational Health, Safety & Wellness** refers to the office in Health PEI that addresses workplace safety and exposures for faculty, staff, and learners.
- **HIV** refers to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
- **Hep B** is the Hepatitis B Virus.

#### D. Guideline

Students will receive support once they report a workplace exposure. It is a common experience for health care workers at all levels of training and practice.

#### E. Procedures

**Students should report immediately to clinical leader, charge person or supervisor** who will direct the student to Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness at Nova Scotia Health and Health PEI or Employee Health at Horizon Health Network, the Emergency Department, or an on-call physician for bloodwork and consideration of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis or Hep B Immune Globulin

Students should report the incident to Student Affairs Office, Dalhousie Medical School.

#### F. Other

For additional information, please refer to the *Infection Control Occupational Health Manual* and the *UGME Policy on Exposure to Infectious Disease and Environmental Hazards* available on the [UGME website](#).

For COVID exposures, please contact [Student Affairs](#) who will direct you to the guidance for health care workers for the health authority you are working in.

For splashes, needlestick or sharp injuries, please also refer to the steps on the *Exposure to Blood and Body Fluids* card provided by UGME.