

Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

Final Regulations

OSHA's regulations require employers to

- institute a system of infection control known as Universal Precautions, which treat all blood and body fluids as infectious.
- establish a written Exposure Control Plan.
- provide Hepatitis B vaccinations, at no cost to the employee, to all employees who are identified as having occupational exposure.
- provide postexposure testing, evaluation, and follow-up to all employees who have had an exposure incident.
- provide annual training on the regulations and on bloodborne pathogens to employees who have occupational exposure.

As defined in the Federal Register, "occupational exposure" means reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral (piercing the skin barrier) contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

SUNY's Exposure Control Plan

The State University of New York (SUNY) has established an Exposure Control Plan in accordance with OSHA's regulations. The plan is described in Memorandum to Presidents "OSHA Standard on Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens," dated June 25, 1992.

Responsibilities

Operating Locations

The Research Foundation (RF) operations manager is required to ensure

- location compliance with SUNY's Exposure Control Plan.
- that the appropriate Foundation account(s) is charged for the expense of providing the Hepatitis B vaccinations.

References

Federal Register, Rules and Regulations, Vol 56, No. 235, Friday, December 6, 1991, pages 64175-64182.

Memorandum to Presidents "OSHA Standard on Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens," dated June 25, 1992.