1.0 **Policy Statement:**
It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) policy to provide the infrastructure and support that enables, and requires, medical students to take immediate action following exposure or incident that results in the need for medical treatment.

2.0 **Definitions:**
- *Exposure*: State of being exposed to contact with a pathogen
- *Pathogen*: A bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease.
- *Incident*: An event or occurrence of contact with pathogens i.e. needle stick, eye splash, cuts, and burns.
- *Medical Treatment*: Care provided by healthcare personnel or physician to manage post exposure.
- *Immediate*: Done at once; nearest time.

3.0 **Responsibilities:**
- Medical Student
- Faculty at Sites of Clinical Rotations
- Office of Student Affairs

4.0 **Procedures**
The steps a medical student follows in the event of any exposure to a potential infectious topical, blood borne or airborne infectious agent.

**Medical Students**

**Immediate actions:**
1. First aid and initial care at the site where the injury occurred and a decision by medical personnel as to whether Urgent Care is needed.
2. Record detailed description of the exposure (type of injury or exposure, instrument involved, type of fluid, location of injury and setting).
3. Record patient demographic data.
4. Notify key clinical personnel at the site.

**Actions within two hours:**
1. Evaluation of risk by a physician to consider laboratory testing, treatment, referral or other appropriate actions for the safety and protection of the student, and others who may be at risk.
2. Decisions regarding need and recommended follow up for treatment, testing, referral(s).

Actions within 24 hours:
1. Complete an incident report.
2. Notify the Office of Student Affairs of the incident.
3. Referral to the nearest hospital emergency department, local health clinic or to the student's physician for further diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up if needed.

Actions after post exposure care:
1. Any student who needs post-care treatment because of injuries and or medical conditions from pathogen exposure in a clinical setting may be eligible to apply for reasonable accommodations following the procedures outlined at: https://medicine.wsu.edu/md-program/student-affairs/student-handbook/disabilities-and-accommodations/.

Responsibilities of faculty at clinical sites
1. Provisions for the care of students who sustain needle-stick injuries, eye splashes, cuts, burns or other exposures are to be supervised by faculty at clinical sites.
2. Associate Deans for Clinical Education will be responsible for informing clinical faculty and residents about ESFCOM’s post exposure policy.

Financial Responsibility
Medical evaluation and management costs post exposure:
1. The health and wellness fees paid by students covers only the evaluation. ESFCOM will reimburse up to $1000 of medical expenses for counseling and post-exposure treatment for incidents within the first three days (72 hours) of exposure. Reimbursement claims must be submitted within 90 days to the Office of Student Affairs. Any additional expenses beyond $1000 will be the responsibility of the student.
2. After 72 hours, students will be responsible for any other costs related to the incident.
3. ESFCOM will strongly encourage students to have health care insurance that may assist with additional costs.
4. Students will notify their clinical site faculty and the Office of Student Affairs of financial issues pertaining to the pathogen exposure.

Office of Student Affairs Support
If ESFCOM medical students have unanswered questions or need additional support, they will contact:
1. During work hours, (8am-5pm), Office of Student Affairs and ask for one of the staff.
2. After hours, the ESFCOM Faculty on Call
The following forms are available on the WSU Student Health website:
https://spokane.wsu.edu/studentaffairs/health-and-wellness/
- Blood Borne Pathogens Campus Student Procedures (pdf)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Abbreviated Procedures (pdf)
- Report an accident

5.0 Related Policies:
- Immunizations and Tuberculosis Screening Policy
- Communicable Disease Policy
- Medical Student Training on Universal Precautions and Biohazards

6.0 Key Search Words
Exposure, incident, urgent care

7.0 Revision History

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Responsible Office: ESFCOM Office of Student Affairs.

Policy Contact: Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Supersedes: N/A