

Policy on Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards

I. POLICY

Students must receive education and training regarding the methods of prevention of exposure to infectious and environmental hazards. Instruction will include the use of adequate barrier protection (gloves, safety glasses, mask, gown, etc.), sharps precautions, and hand washing/hygiene, as well as other relevant health care worker standards put forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Students are required to complete this training at the start of their medical education and at the start of each curriculum year.

Post-exposure, students are instructed to seek medical care immediately and to report the incident to their immediate supervisor and the Office of Student Affairs. Specific procedures for care and treatment after exposure is described in the Procedure on Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards.

Students are required to maintain active health insurance to cover health needs related to such exposures.

II. PURPOSE

UPSOM seeks to prevent medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards through education and use of appropriate procedures and engineering controls, and provides prophylaxis therapy if students are exposed to infectious agents.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical students

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Student Affairs

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Procedure on Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards
- University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual, Reporting Exposure to Potentially Infectious Material to the University of Pittsburgh, EH&S Guideline Number 05-005

VI. REFERENCES

LCME Element 12.8: Student Exposure Policies/Procedures: A medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:

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

All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.

VII. APPROVALS

Education Policy Council, March 21, 2018

Dean, School of Medicine, March 31, 2018