

## **Policy: Bloodborne Pathogen/Communicable Disease**

**Responsible Party:** Associate Dean, Clinical Education and GME  
**COCA Element: 5.3**

**Review Frequency:** Annually and as needed.

As a part of the larger university, UNC COM will follow the existing Bloodborne Pathogen/Communicable Disease Policy at the University of Northern Colorado, as outlined at [Bloodborne Pathogen/Communicable Disease Policy](#)

All COM students, faculty and staff are required to complete initial training on the mitigation of bloodborne and body fluid exposures during their initial hire, or at student orientation. Annual refresher training will be provided to all students through a commercial online vendor. Faculty and staff engaged in patient care or research with potential exposure to body fluid will also undergo annual refresher training.

If a potential body fluid exposure occurs in a research laboratory, any exposed, non-intact skin must be washed with water for at least 10 minutes. Exposed mucous membranes or eyes should be flushed with water for 15 minutes. Further medical evaluation must then be sought, either at the UNC Student Health Center (if open) or the emergency department at Northern Colorado Medical Center, to assess the need of post exposure prophylaxis.

If an exposure occurs during a clinical rotation, or at another off-campus site, the same procedure outlined above should be followed. The student must then seek care at the nearest appropriate emergency department or urgent care facility for evaluation and potential post exposure prophylaxis.

### **Communicable Disease Exposure**

Students, faculty and staff will receive education on the reducing exposure to communicable diseases during their initial hire or at student orientation.

Examples of infectious diseases include, but are not limited to:

- Measles
- Tuberculosis
- Hepatitis
- Meningitis
- Chicken Pox
- Influenza
- Pneumonia
- Mononucleosis

- Ebola

- COVID-19

COM students who are ill with a suspected transmissible illness must follow the appropriate procedure to obtain an excused absence. For first- and second-year students, approval must be obtained from the Course Director. For third- and fourth-year students, approval must be obtained from both the preceptor and either the Clerkship Director or the Department of Clinical Education.