



Guidelines for Needlestick and Body-Fluid Exposures

It is recommended that you receive treatment within two hours of a needlestick or body-fluid exposure. You are encouraged to seek counseling at [AUCC-SHWC](#) so that your degree of exposure can be assessed. With this necessary counseling, you will be in a better position to manage both your exposure and any related costs.

**Students must be registered in credit courses for this policy to apply.*

- If you sustain an injury with a needle or other sharp object that has been exposed to a patient's body fluids, or if you were splashed by a patient's body fluid, you may be at risk.
- If this occurs, treatment is available that can substantially reduce the risk of acquiring HIV infection. The treatment PEP can be given to pregnant women.
- The [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) recommends that for maximum protection, you should start PEP as soon as possible after the exposure.

**The following are guidelines for what to do if you sustain a needlestick injury or body-fluid exposure.*

Exposures During Normal Clinic Hours

If exposure occurs during working hours (8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), care may be obtained from AUCC-SHWC.

- To avoid delays in treatment, complete the [needlestick incident report form](#).
- A member of the AUCC-SHWC Infection Prevention & Control team will contact you and schedule an appointment with a clinician.
- If you are more than 30–45 minutes from the AUCC-SHWC, we recommend that you seek care from the nearest emergency room or health care facility. Students should contact the AUCC-SHWC on the next (non-holiday) weekday following the exposure at shwcrequests@msm.edu.

Exposures After Normal Clinic Hours

If exposure occurs after working hours, care may be obtained from the AUCC-SHWC during late and Saturday clinic.

- AUCC-SHWC is open 8:00am -7:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10am-12:30pm (excluding holidays and summer). **Students should call (404) 756-1241 to verify that staff is available.**
- If you are more than 30–45 minutes from the AUCC-SHWC, we recommend that you seek care from the nearest emergency room or health care facility. Contact the AUCC-SHWC on the next (non-holiday) weekday following the exposure at shwcrequests@msm.edu.
- If health care providers at another facility have questions about appropriate care, they can call the national HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Hot-Line for Clinicians at 1-888-HIV-4911, which is open 24 hours per day.
- Students should contact the AUCC-SHWC on the next (non-holiday) weekday following the exposure at shwcrequests@msm.edu.

Exposures Outside the Atlanta Area

If exposure occurs outside the Atlanta area, it is recommended that the students seek medical care from the nearest emergency room or health care facility.

- If health care providers at the facility have questions about appropriate care, they can call the national HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Hotline for Clinicians at 1-888-HIV-4911, which is open 24 hours per day.
- Students should contact the AUCC-SHWC on the next (non-holiday) weekday following the exposure at shwcrequests@msm.edu.

Incident Reports. Regardless of location, students must complete a [needlestick incident report](#) on the day in which the incident occurred. The report will include information identifying the source of exposure and how to follow up. Bring a copy of the incident report to AUCC-SHWC.

- **Cost.** If the above protocol is followed, AUCC-SHWC will submit a medical insurance claim for the following labs: HIV, HBsAb, HBsAg, HBcAb, and Hepatitis C Ab. It is the student's responsibility to pay for any cost that arises.
- To be eligible to receive evaluation, treatment, or initial counseling, each AUCC-SHWC student must comply with the following requirements:
 - a. Each student must report their exposure using the [needlestick incident report](#).
 - b. Each student must consult the AUCC-SHWC for evaluation, treatment, or initial counseling immediately.
 - c. Each student must provide a copy of their report on the day of their appointment, which includes time, date, and location of the incident. The incident must be related to your clinical duties as a registered student.
 - d. Students must follow the procedures as outlined in the "Guidelines for Needlestick and Body-Fluid Exposures."

These guidelines are subject to revision and modification by the AUCC Student Health & Wellness Center's Infection Prevention and Control team.