

# OCCUPATIONAL INJURY OR EXPOSURE PROTOCOL FOR LABORATORIES

Compliance with the NIH Guidelines for Recombinant DNA requires that the University of Kentucky, as a recipient of NIH funds, “report any significant problems, violations of the NIH Guidelines, or any significant research-related accidents or illnesses” (Sections IV-B-1-j, -2-b-(7), -3-c-(2), -7-a-(3)). Compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act General Duty Clause requires that the University of Kentucky provide “a place of employment which [is] free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to [its] employees” (Sec. 5 Duties).

## DEFINITIONS:

**Infectious Agent** Microorganisms capable of invasion and multiplication in humans, animals, plants, or insects.

**Large Spill** A spill of greater than 50 mL of hazardous material that occurs outside a biological safety cabinet, chemical fume hood, or other containment device.

**Recombinant DNA (rDNA)** Defined by the NIH as molecules that are constructed outside living cells by joining natural or synthetic DNA segments to DNA molecules that can replicate in a living cell or molecules that result from the replication of those described above. The definition has been expanded to cover all nucleic acids.

**Occupational Exposure** Any potential exposure to chemical, radiological, or biological hazard in the workplace with or without the presence of a physical injury.

**Reportable Incident** Any accident that leads to personal injury or illness. Any breach of containment. Any violation of the NIH Guidelines. Examples of reportable incidents include but are not limited to large spills, needle-sticks, animal bites from infected animals, and unprotected skin exposures to biological, chemical, or radiological hazards.

PERFORM APPROPRIATE RESPONSE AS INDICATED BY INJURY.  
FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES CALL 911 OR GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.

Injury or Exposure That Could Require Medical Attention

Injury or Exposure Requiring First Aid  
Follow Flowchart on Reverse Side

### UK EMPLOYEES

8:00 am-4:30 pm

- Call UK Worker's Care at 9-1-800-440-6285.

- Report a potential occupational exposure to chemical hazard, radiation hazard, rDNA, or infectious agent.

- An appointment will be made for you at UHS.

4:30 pm-8:00 am & holidays

- Call UK Worker's Care at 9-1-800-440-6285.

- Report a potential occupational exposure to chemical hazard, radiation hazard, rDNA, or infectious agent.

- An appointment will be made for you at UHS the next working day.

### VISITING SCIENTISTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND OTHERS

- Contact your local health care provider/physician.

- Report a potential occupational exposure to chemical hazard, radiation hazard, rDNA, or infectious agent.

### UK STUDENTS

8:00 am-4:30 pm

- Call UHS at 323-APPT.

- Report a potential occupational exposure to chemical hazard, radiation hazard, rDNA, or infectious agent.

- An appointment will be made for you at UHS.

4:30 pm-8:00 am & holidays

- Call UHS physician on call at 323-5321.

- Ask for UHS physician. Report a potential occupational exposure to chemical hazard, radiation hazard, rDNA, or infectious agent.

- Make an appointment at UHS the next working day.

# OCCUPATIONAL INJURY OR EXPOSURE PROTOCOL FOR LABORATORIES

## DEFINITIONS:

**Strain** An injury to a muscle in which the muscle fibers tear as a result of overstretching. Typical symptoms are localized pain, stiffness, inflammation, and bruising (e.g. back, shoulder, wrist).

**Contusion** An injury to biological tissues in which capillaries are damaged allowing blood to seep into the surrounding tissue. Also known as a bruise.

**Laceration/Cut/Puncture** An open wound where the skin is torn, cut, or punctured.

**Burn** A type of injury caused by heat, cold, electricity, chemicals, or radiation.

**Needlestick** An injury that results from sharps potentially contaminated with another persons blood or other potentially infectious material.

**Exposure to Infectious Agent** An exposure via contact, ingestion, inhalation, or absorption to an infectious agent such as HIV, TB, Hepatitis A, or other human or zoonotic disease.

**Serious Injury or Exposure** Any fatal accident, any accident requiring hospitalization of one or more people, any injury/illness that results in the loss of consciousness, any injury that results in 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burns to more than 30% of the body or 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns to more than 20% of the body, any incident that results in amputation, or any incident that results in injuries and/or illnesses to more than two employees.

