

Contact:

Director of Risk Management - 541-956-7061

Legal References:

- OAR 437, Division 2, Section Z - Bloodborne Pathogens
- Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act (2000)

Purpose

To prevent exposure to potentially infectious materials (PIM), all students, employees, and members of the public must use **standard precautions** when performing any task or procedure that could result in contamination of skin or clothing with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions (except sweat), or other potentially infectious materials—regardless of visible blood presence.

Standard Precautions

All body fluids are to be considered potentially infectious.

Everyone—students, employees, and the public—is responsible for their own safety and the safety of others.

Appropriate **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** must be used when handling sharps or performing any task involving potential exposure. PPE includes, but is not limited to:

- Gloves, gowns, lab coats
- Face shields or masks and eye protection
- Mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, pocket masks, or other ventilation devices

Engineering and Work Practice Controls

Engineering Controls

When hazards can be reduced or eliminated through engineering controls, they must be used. Supervisors will periodically review these controls for effectiveness.

Annually, Risk Management and departments using sharps will identify, evaluate, and select safer devices and practices. Front-line employee input will be included in this process. The **Director of Risk Management** will maintain written documentation of all evaluations.

If employee-recommended devices are not selected, the reasons will be documented along with employee feedback.

Examples include:

- Disposable sharps containers
- Self-sheathing needles

Work Practice Controls

Work practices reduce exposure risk by changing how tasks are performed.

Examples include:

- Minimizing splashing, spraying, or spattering of blood or other materials
- Prohibiting two-handed needle recapping
- Practicing handwashing after contact
- Flushing mucous membranes following exposure
- Proper handling of contaminated laundry

Safe Work Practices

- Avoid needle use whenever possible.
- All needles used for blood withdrawal or administration must have **engineered sharps protection** (e.g., barrier creation, encapsulation).
- Contaminated needles must **not** be removed from syringes. Dispose of entire assemblies into a **red biohazard sharps container**.
- Never remove, bend, or break needles by hand.
- Discard sharps immediately after use into a puncture-resistant, leak-proof, labeled sharps container.
- Do not overfill containers or press contents down manually.

When a container reaches **$\frac{3}{4}$ full, contact Risk Management (x7061)** for replacement and disposal.

Sharps containers must be:

- Red and labeled "BIOHAZARD"
- Maintained upright and secured
- Closed before transport or disposal

Recapping Exceptions

Needles **not exposed** to human or animal tissue or fluids may be recapped using a **one-handed** or **mechanical** method.

Never hold the cap in your hand during recapping. Store or transport uncapped needles safely (e.g., in a tray or pan).

Injury or Exposure Procedures

If injured by a needle or exposed to blood or other PIM:

- **Perform immediate first aid** - Wash the affected area.
- **Notify** your supervisor/instructor and the **Director of Risk Management**.
- **Seek medical evaluation immediately**. Timely prophylaxis (within one hour) may be required.
- **File an online Accident/Injury Report**.
- **Dispose of** the needle/syringe safely in a red biohazard container.

Coverage and Responsibility

Students

- If a student **experiences a needlestick injury or exposure to potentially infectious material while on campus**, they should **seek immediate medical care**.
- If the incident is not covered under **Oregon Workers' Compensation, Rogue Community College (RCC) Risk Management** will **cover the cost of the initial medical evaluation and treatment appointment** related to the exposure.
- Any **follow-up appointments, testing, or additional treatment** beyond the initial visit will be the student's responsibility.
- Students are encouraged to seek care from **Asante Work Health** (listed below) but may **choose any licensed healthcare provider** for evaluation and treatment.
- If the injury occurs in a **clinical or lab placement** that qualifies for Oregon Workers' Compensation coverage, the student will follow the same process as an employee (see below). Students should contact **Risk Management** to confirm eligibility.

Employees

- Employees injured or exposed while performing duties "on the job" are covered under **Oregon Workers' Compensation**.

Needle Safety Program

- Employees are encouraged to **seek medical care through Asante Work Health**, which provides occupational health services familiar with RCC's reporting and follow-up requirements.
- However, **employees may choose any licensed medical provider** for evaluation and treatment.

Recommended Occupational Health Providers:

Asante Work Health - Grants Pass

625 SW Ramsey Ave, Suite A
Grants Pass, OR 97527
Phone: 541-507-2290

Asante Work Health - Medford

781 Black Oak Dr, Suite 102
Medford, OR 97504
Phone: 541-789-4236

If exposure occurs after hours, employees or students should go to:

Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center - Emergency Room

2825 E Barnett Rd, Medford, OR 97504

Asante Three Rivers Medical Center - Emergency Room

500 SW Ramsey Ave, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Important: Do not attempt to clean or dispose of human blood or contaminated materials yourself. Only trained personnel may perform cleanup.

Contact Campus Security or dial 911 in an emergency.

Incident Investigation

All needlestick incidents will be investigated by Risk Management to determine contributing factors.

Questions may include:

- Were safety-engineered syringes available and used?
- Was a sharps container accessible and not overfilled?
- Was the individual trained in safe needle use?

Needle Safety Program

- Did the person follow established procedures?
- Did they feel safe reporting the incident?

Record Retention

Risk Management and or Human Resources will maintain confidential records for all individuals covered under this program, including:

- Incident reports and follow-up communications
- Accident/Injury Reports
- Post-exposure documentation

Records are confidential and retained for duration of employment plus 30 years, as required by law.

Medical and lab records related to exposures will be maintained by the treating healthcare provider.

Questions

For any questions, exposure concerns, or reporting of unsafe conditions, contact:

Director of Risk Management
541-956-7061