

# Blood Borne Virus Policy

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Document Title: Blood Borne Virus Policy			
Version No.	1	Policy Owner	Executive Director of Human Resources
Superseded version	N/A	Author Role Title	Health & Safety Manager
Approval Date	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Approved by	POD
Effective Date	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Last Review Date	May 2022
Next Review Date	May 2023		



## **Blood Borne Virus Policy**

### **1. Policy Statement**

- 1.1 Teesside University is committed to protecting the health of its staff and students by preventing infection by blood borne virus and providing support if a member of staff or student has a blood borne virus infection.

### **2. Scope**

- 2.1 Teesside University's Blood Borne Virus Policy is applicable to all staff, students, volunteers and visitors whilst on Teesside University premises.

### **3. Aims**

- 3.1 This policy aims to inform staff, students, volunteers and visitors of their duties should the unlikely accidental exposure to a Blood Borne Virus occur whilst on Teesside University premises.

### **4. Definitions**

- 4.1 Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) are carried in infected people's blood and may cause severe disease in certain individuals and few or no symptoms in others. The virus can pass from one person to another, via body fluids, whether the carrier of the virus is ill or not.
- 4.2 The main Blood Borne Viruses of concern are Hepatitis B, C and D, which cause disease of the liver, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), affecting the body's immune system.
- 4.3 Exposure Prone Procedure - (EPPs) are those where there is a risk that injury to the worker may result in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the worker. These procedures include those where the worker's gloved hands may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient's open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times.

### **5. Legislation**

- 5.1 Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

5.2 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999,

5.3 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) (COSHH).

5.4 Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 as amended (RIDDOR)

## 6. Procedures

6.1 To fulfil its commitment the University will have the following in place:

- The provision of training and information to prevent the transmission of a blood borne virus.
- Risk Assessments for all work involving blood, and body fluids likely to be contaminated with blood that may be specific to the individual or task.
- Immunisation (vaccination) is available against Hepatitis B virus, but not Hepatitis C or HIV, therefore the first line of defences is to reduce the risk of exposure. The need for a worker to be immunised will be determined by the completion of a risk assessment. Immunisation will only be seen as a supplement to reinforce other control measures.
- Procedures and guidance to prevent the transmission of blood borne virus infections.
- Reporting procedures and action plans following any incident involving any potentially contaminated blood.
- The provision of counselling services for employees and students who may be affected by a blood borne virus.
- Guidance for First Aiders. Specific training for dealing with body fluids and the disposal of contaminated materials will be included in all first aid courses.

## 7. Confidentiality

7.1 The strictest confidentiality will be maintained in relation to information about a person who has a blood borne virus. Information about a person with a blood borne virus, however obtained, must not be disclosed to anyone without the individual's written consent, unless in the public interest.

## 8.0 Monitoring

8.1 All staff are responsible for reporting to Health & Safety any incident or near miss that could or does result in someone acquiring a BBV. An **accident/incident report form** should be completed at the earliest opportunity to allow monitoring of

sharps injury occurrences. On receipt of the form the Health and Safety Centre will issue the **Risk Assessment for Exposure Injury** form (appendix 1.0) that should be returned to the University's Occupational Health Adviser for reporting purposes.

8.2 Accident/Incident trend analysis will be undertaken by the Health and Safety Team and reported to the University's Executive Team.

8.2 The contaminated person's manager will be responsible for ensuring that a suitable investigation is carried out according to the consequence of the incident and action plans are created and carried out in a suitable time frame.

8.3 In accordance with World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations, it is intended that this policy will be reviewed in the light of epidemiological information and monitored for its successful implementation by the Occupational Health Adviser.

8.4 The Health and Safety Adviser will notify the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) of any accidents/incidents that require notification under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (**RIDDOR**).

**APPENDICES:**

**Appendix 1.0**

**Risk Assessment for Exposure Injury**

NAME:		DOB:	
OCCUPATION:		CONTACT NUMBER:	
INJURY DATE:		INJURY TIME:	
INJURY LOCATION:			
TYPE OF INJURY:	SHARPS	NEEDLESTICK	SPLASH BITE/ SCRATCH
TYPE OF FLUID	BLOOD	BLOOD STAINED SALVIA	NON-BLOOD STAINED SALVIA VOMIT / URINE
AREA OF CONTACT	SKIN	MOUTH	EYE OTHER:
HOW INJURY OCCURRED:			
IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:	WASHED & BLED YES / NO	EYE / MOUTH IRRIGATED YES / NO	
DONOR SOURCE RISK:	HIGH RISK	LOW RISK	RISK NOT KNOWN
IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:	TREATMENT AT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH / A&E		YES / NO
IF YES, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH		A&E
FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AT TEESSIDE INFORMED AND COPY OF THIS FORM SENT TO THEM FOR MONITORING PURPOSES		YES /NO

**Please return this completed form to the Occupational Health Adviser**