

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

To: Biosafety Permit holders, Laboratory Supervisors, Associate Deans (Research) for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Science, Engineering, Kinesiology, Arts and Nursing

CC: Biosafety Committee

Biosafety Advisory

This is an advisory regarding required incident reporting and implementation of the [Post-Exposure Protocol for Biological Hazards](#). On October 12th, 2018, the Biosafety Committee discussed this topic and methods to improve health and safety for laboratory personnel.

What's the issue?

Eight reportable incidents have occurred in the first ten months of 2018. There was a variety of incidents including several *exposures involving needle sticks, sharps and splashes, unauthorized access and inadvertent release of human pathogens prior to decontamination.*

In some cases, the [Post-Exposure Protocol for Biological Hazards](#) was not followed at the discretion of the affected worker. Not following the protocol may reduce the efficacy of treatment and negatively affect medical outcomes.

Call to action

1. Ensure incidents are reported through [Online Accident Reporting System \(OARS\)](#).

Reportable biosafety incidents are:

- any incident that has caused or may have caused disease in an individual
- missing, lost or stolen human pathogens or toxins, or
- inadvertent possession, production or release of human pathogens or toxins

2. Remind all lab personnel to follow the step-by-step requirements of the [Post-Exposure Protocol for Biological Hazards](#). This protocol includes immediate first aid, assessment requirements and follow up instructions.



Thank you for your continued support.

Eoin

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