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Owner Sydney Miller: Student Affairs Coordinator
Area College of Medicine - Student Affairs

RUCOM Biosafety Policy

Purpose

To protect RUCOM students from the risks of being occupationally infected with HIV, HBV, or other bloodborne pathogens, and to implement the United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Related LCME Element

12.8 Student Exposure Policies / Procedures

Scope

All RUCOM students

Responsible Party

RUCOM Students, Office of Student Affairs

POLICY

I. Policy Statement

RUCOM follows OSHA standards regarding exposure to infectious and environmental hazards on campus, and the institutional policies of its clinical affiliates, as specified in affiliation agreements, regarding exposure to infectious and environmental hazards at clinical sites.

Educating Students about Methods of Prevention. Ultimately, each student is responsible for his or her health and safety in the clinical/educational setting; therefore, it is the goal of RUCOM that all students learn appropriate policies and procedures to follow in the event that they are injured or potentially exposed to bloodborne pathogens or other communicable diseases.

RUCOM medical students receive information about the prevention of airborne and bloodborne pathogens several times during the course of their medical school education, beginning in the Foundational Phase.

Procedures for Post-Exposure Care and Treatment, including Needlestick Injuries. A student who becomes exposed to airborne or bloodborne biohazardous materials, including needlestick injuries and respiratory pathogens, must follow established protocols at RUCOM to receive timely diagnostic and therapeutic care. Students who experience needlestick and other types of injuries at any location (i.e., on campus, hospitals, ambulatory clinics, or neighborhood households) must immediately notify their clinical instructor or attending physician. Any student exposed to biohazardous material should receive immediate first aid and initial care at the site where the injury occurred.

Immediately after a known exposure, medical students must first contact their clinical instructor or attending physician and report the name of the source patient and diagnosis. This information is necessary to determine the potential severity of the exposure. Students who become exposed to biohazardous materials while at an RUCOM-affiliated clinical site (or other institution) must follow established protocols at that site for immediate care and treatment after exposure. All affiliation agreements with clinical care sites contain provisions for the care of students who sustain injuries and other types of exposures.

In addition to completing required incident report forms at the clinical sites, all exposures must be reported to the RUCOM Office of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Affairs provides guidance to students filing the required incident report.

Students may receive follow-up care and treatment for exposures that occur at off-campus clinical or household sites either at the affiliated clinical site, at Roseman Medical Group, or from their private physicians.

Students are responsible for the payment of fees associated with the diagnostic and therapeutic services associated with airborne exposures, needlesticks, and other types of injuries, including filing health insurance claims. All students are required to have continuous health insurance coverage that provides benefits should needlestick injuries occur. The student assumes responsibility for all charges that are not covered by his or her health insurance plan. A student may request the assistance of RUCOM by discussing their needs with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

All Revision Dates

02/2025

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Curriculum Committee	Karin Esposito: Senior Executive Dean, Academic and Student Affairs	05/2026
COM - Office of Student Affairs	Adrian Jones: Associate Dean for Student Affairs	05/2026
Initial Review	Sydney Miller: Student Affairs Coordinator	03/2026

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