

BU Agent Incident Reporting Summary October to December 2017

| **CAMPUS | Date of Incident | Incident Type/Agent Involved | BSL | Transmissible Person to Person | Description | *Reportable Incident | Report of Clinical Illness | Comments/Corrective Actions |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|-------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| BU Medical Campus (BUMC) | | | | | | | | |
| BUMC | 10/5/17 | BBPE to right eye | BSL2 | No | An undergraduate student researcher sustained a small splash of blood to her right eye while working with two blood samples collected from donors the previous day. | Yes | No | To prevent splatter a stripette and wide mouth cup will be introduced to the procedure. The stripette is longer than the micropipette and will assist when ejecting the blood into the cup. In addition the undergraduate will don lab coat and gloves when doing this procedure. |
| BUMC | 10/6/17 | Laceration to left thumb | BSL2 | No | A post doc researcher accidentally cut her thumb while cutting a plastic pipette with a clean scalpel. | Yes | No | The researcher was using a scalpel to remove a mechanical pipette plunger. This lab has many mechanical pipettes, all of which are calibrated and serviced annually. Going forward, all damaged mechanical pipettes will be put aside and fixed by the outside service contractor. |
| BUMC | 11/8/17 | Rat bite to left ring finger | ABSL2 | No | An animal care taker was bit by an ABLS1 rat on her left ring finger through one pair of gloves as she was closing a wire cage. | Yes | No | The worker will use heavy-duty "gauntlet" gloves when handling rats and conducting rat cage-changes. |
| BUMC | 11/15/17 | NHP scratch to right hand | ABSL2 | No | An undergraduate student researcher was scratched on the top of his right hand through 2 pairs of gloves. | Yes | No | The student's PI will discuss this incident and general NHP safety precautions related to their lab's tasks at their next staff meeting. Secondly, the Animal Science Center will update their NHP related SOP's to include the "Introduction to Nonhuman Primates" AALAS course as a prerequisite to participating in NHP space tours as well as develop a proper procedure to assure tour participants have completed all additional prerequisites before taking the tour and working with NHP's. |
| BUMC | 11/27/17 | Splash of paraformaldehyde, possible Herpes B to left eye | ABSL2 | No | A researcher sustained a splash of paraformaldehyde 4% and possible Herpes B to his left eye. | Yes | No | The Principal Investigator had a lab safety meeting with her staff on November 31st. At this meeting the lab discussed laboratory exposure procedures, potential NHP exposure SOP's and proper PPE for their laboratory procedures. PPE Requirements: 1) When working with chemicals such as paraformaldehyde, safety glasses or goggles must be worn. 2) When working with unfixed non-human primate tissue, a face-shield that protects both the mouth, nose and eyes must be worn. |
| BUMC | 12/9/17 | Right thumb laceration with cryostat blade | ABSL2 | No | A graduate student accidentally cut her right thumb when she forgot to put the safety latch on a cryostat blade as she tried to adjust the rodent tissue she was working with. | Yes | No | Follow all steps in the SOP for microtome use, especially the guidance on using the safety latches at all times. |
| BUMC | 12/13/17 | Rat bite to right 5th finger | ABSL2 | No | A PhD graduate student was bit by a non transgenic rat on her right 5th finger as she turned a "tetrode" (electrical probe) on the microarray apparatus. | Yes | No | EHS Recommends that researchers should not rush and take time to complete these tasks. This is especially important when the animal is agitated or behaving differently. It is recommended to keep the unengaged fingers away from the rat's face. Also, the appropriate PPE, including gloves, must be worn while working with animals. |
| BUMC | 12/18/17 | Sharp injury to left index finger | BSL2 | No | A research resident cut his left index finger with a diamond disk when he was sectioning an extracted natural de-identified human tooth. The tooth had been exposed to 5-10% of sodium hypochlorite in a jar for a few weeks. | No | No | 1. Resin blocks should be used to encase the tooth and then it should be sectioned. 2. Students should wear cut resistant gloves. |

| Charles River Campus (CRC) | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---|-------|----|---|-----|----|--|
| CRC | 10/3/17 | Chemical splash on right hand | BSL1 | No | An undergraduate student felt burning on her right hand and noticed a rash when benzene was accidentally spilled over her gloved hand in a chemistry lab. | No | No | Do not overfill the cuvette. Remind the students about this precaution. The teaching fellow pointed out that the student did not have to pour so much benzene into the cuvette. As benzene is volatile, and UV instrument is analyzing the gas of benzene, not the liquid. |
| CRC | 10/3/17 | Mouse bite to right thumb | ABSL2 | No | A postdoctoral fellow was bit on his right hand by non transgenic mouse that did not involve hazardous agents or treatments. | Yes | No | The lab has been made aware that ASC does offer hands on training so that researchers may do less hands on training in the future for new researchers. |
| CRC | 10/13/17 | Chemical splash to lower lip | BSL1 | No | An undergraduate student was dipping a TLC plate into a permanganate solution when a drop of the permanganate solution splashed onto the outside of her lower lip. | No | No | Do not stay too close to chemical solution. |
| CRC | 11/9/17 | Chemical exposure to intact skin | BSL1 | No | An undergraduate student spilled a small amount of polyacrylamide gel on the bottom of her shirt and on her leg. | No | No | Change the procedure of checking the solidified gel. Instead of holding up the plates to check the plates directly, check the solidity of the leftover polyacrylamide in pipette as reference. polyacrylamide stock 40% is a hazardous chemical (harmful, causes skin irritation, serious eye irritation, may cause allergic skin reaction, genetic defects, and cancer, suspected of damaging fertility.) Lab coat should be worn. |
| CRC | 11/13/17 | Skin irritation to right hand | BSL1 | No | A student noticed right hand skin irritation after touching a solid sodium hydroxide pellet with a gloved hand. | No | No | Be cautious when handling chemicals, avoid direct contact. |
| CRC | 11/16/17 | Potential exposure to hydrofluoric acid | BSL1 | No | A graduate student intended to carry out some type of cleaning procedure which normally involves placing an object into diluted hydrochloric acid. But he grabbed the wrong bottle and instead, used hydrofluoric acid. He then realized that something was wrong, and then dunked his hand (double gloved with nitrile gloves only) into the solution to retrieve the object. He reportedly did not get any of the HF solution on his hand. He then rinsed his gloved hand, removed the gloves, and scrubbed his hand. | No | No | EHS has suggested the researcher alter process to limit contact with hydrochloric acid. Potentially, the researcher could use a basket to remove the components instead of removing them by hand. The researcher will wear acid resistant gloves while working with hydrochloric acid in the future. The lab manager has added labels to the caps of acids in the cabinet and moved hydrofluoric acid to a separate shelf to limit confusion. |
| CRC | 11/29/17 | Clean needlestick to left ring finger | BSL2 | No | An undergraduate student in a chemistry lab reports he accidentally was stuck by a clean needle through one pair of gloves as he tried putting a syringe onto a clean needle. No biologics or hazardous agents involved. | No | No | Be cautious when removing the needle cap. |
| National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL) | | | | | | | | |
| NEIDL | 10/5/17 | Scratches to bilateral hands from cat | ABSL1 | No | A Veterinary Research Technician was scratched on her hands by a naive cat that had been startled by noise. | Yes | No | When introducing a new variation on handling/restraint where stress may be induced; use additional soft leather gloves for increased hand protection; these are always available in the animal room. These were not used in this case as all animals had shown high comfort levels with restraint. Dexterity can be reduced using these gloves but they are helpful before an animal's acceptance of a new stimulus is verified. If dexterity is reduced below a technician's comfort level, a soft leather glove may be worn on the non-scruffing hand which was affected in this case. |
| NEIDL | 10/18/17 | Thumb laceration on metal file cabinet | N/A | No | A technician sustained a cut on his left thumb from a sharp piece on a metal cabinet when he was pulling wires from behind the cabinet. No biological hazards were involved. | Yes | No | File was checked to see if modifications could be made. A request to facilities to file down the edge within the cabinet was not needed. |
| NEIDL | 11/21/17 | Scratches to left forearm from cat | ABSL2 | No | A Veterinary Research Technician was scratched by a cat that had previously been infected with feline morbillivirus but had since been cleared from the cat. | Yes | No | Further training was instituted by the NEIDL Animal Core Director on the procedure for restraint of cats as well of review of procedures when an animal reacts differently or a technician does not have a firm hold and must re-set. |

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| NEIDL | 12/6/17 | Left elbow strain | N/A | No | A mechanic reports he felt a tweak in his left elbow when he pulled on a wrench to free up a bolt. | No | No | The quick release of the bolt is the suspected reasoning behind the elbow strain. The positioning of the wrench release will be reviewed to prevent future re-occurrence in regards to ergonomics of the work. |
| Other - Collaborating Laboratory | | No incidents | | | | | | |
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** Indicates if incident is reportable to local, state or federal agency (e.g. Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, Boston Public Health Commission,*

**** Campus Location**

BUMC - Boston University Medical Center

CRC - Charles River Campus

NEIDL - National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories

Other - work done at collaborating laboratories