

BU Agent Incident Reporting Summary October to December 2018

**CAMPUS	Date of Incident	Incident Type/Agent Involved	BSL	Transmissible Person to Person	Description	*Reportable Incident	Report of Clinical Illness	Agency Incident Reported To	Comments/Corrective Actions
BU Medical Campus (BUMC)									
BUMC	10/1/18	1st degree thermal burn to left forearm	BSL2	No	A general mechanic sustained a steam burn to his left forearm this morning while trying to tighten a steam line.	No	No	N/A	N/A
BUMC	10/2/18	Laceration to right thumb and index finger with microtome blade	BSL2	No	An undergraduate BU student intern cut his right thumb and index fingers on a microtome blade when he forgot to put the safe guard in place. No biohazardous agents were involved with this incident.	No	No	N/A	The student was wearing one pair of gloves taking mouse tissue that was formalin fixed and embedded in paraffin from the microtome when he forgot to put the safe guard in place. The microtome blade was new for the procedure and had not hit the mouse tissue yet. No known hazardous agents were involved with the mouse tissue. To prevent recurrence, the student will use the microtome blade guard when placing samples or changing the blade per the standard operating procedure.
BUMC	10/10/18	Right shoulder strain	ABSL2	No	An animal care technician reported right shoulder pain after he lifted a clean metal rat cage out of a cage wash rack.	Yes	Yes	OSHA	N/A
BUMC	10/10/18	Lower back strain	N/A	No	A staff person reported lower back injury noticed while in a public safety training class.	No	No	N/A	N/A
BUMC	10/11/18	Contusion to head	ABSL2	No	A cage wash employee reported a head injury when the dump station he was pulling tipped hitting the top of his head.	No	No	N/A	N/A
BUMC	10/12/18	Laceration to left ring finger	BSL2	No	An undergraduate student researcher cut his finger when he tried to remove frozen mouse brain tissue sample using a microtome blade from a metal chuck block he was holding with his left hand in a minus cryostat machine.	No	No	N/A	The research assistant didn't wait long enough for the tissue to thaw and exerted unnecessary force to remove the frozen tissue and was cut by the blade. The tissue in question posed no exposure risk, it was from a clean non-transgenic mouse brain tissue. He was re-educated on proper techniques for using the cryostat.
BUMC	10/30/18	Scratch wounds from non human primate- potential Herpes B exposure	ABSL2	No	An animal care technician sustained a couple scratch wounds on his right hand while changing a grate of a non-human primate cage. A report is being sent to BPHC.	Yes	No	BPHC	To prevent recurrence going forward, the animal care technician will completely remove the grate and pan before attempting to remove organic matter from them. This will assure the technician is not within reach of the NHP during this task. This staff member was retrained on this procedure by his supervisor.
BUMC	11/5/18	Mouse bite to left dorsal middle finger	ABSL1	No	A graduate student was bit by a non-transgenic ABSL1 mouse while learning to pick up a mouse during animal handling training.	Yes	No	BPHC	The focus of the training was mouse handling and restraint. The graduate student is scheduled to continue her training with the ASC Training Coordinator and will attend training sessions until sufficiently trained.
BUMC	11/15/18	Possible irritation to hand sanitizer	BSL2	No	A nurse reported she notices she has a coughing spell and brief itching in her throat every time that she uses a particular hand sanitizer.	No		N/A	N/A

BUMC	11/15/18	Needle stick injury to right thumb	BSL2	No	A senior research scientist sustained a needle stick to pre screened human plasma.	Yes	No		This incident was reported to the BPHC because it involved an exposure with a contaminated needle. However, this is not considered a blood-borne pathogen exposure because the donor samples were thoroughly pre-screened. EHS staff discussed the Blood Borne Pathogen Standard as well as the laboratories adopted Exposure Control Plan, and how recapping needles was strongly discouraged and leads to a high probability of needle stick.
BUMC	11/19/18	Possible chemical exposure to right hand	BSL2	No	While working in a fume hood, a research technician reported a little phenol or chloroform got on his right hand through his glove as he was measuring these agents out with a pipette.	No	No	N/A	Based on the 7th edition Ansell chemical resistance guide for permeation and degradation the type of nitrile glove used was not well suited for the task. A more appropriate glove choice was recommended after elimination and substitution of the hazardous chemicals was deemed not feasible. The information was emailed to the PI and the researcher.
BUMC	12/4/18	Cut to right thumb	ABSL2	No	A research technician walked into ROHP at 10:25 am reporting she sustained a cut on her right thumb from scissors at 10:15am this morning.	No	No	N/A	There was a minor discrepancy with the initial report, for the tool that was described. The research tech was using forceps with a sharp flat point not a pair of scissors. She was planning to use them for genotyping but accidentally dropped them prior to use. The forceps were clean and never used with animals or hazardous agents. To prevent recurrence in the future, it was suggested to use caution when handling sharp objects.
BUMC	12/12/18	Laceration to left index finger	ABSL2	No	A PhD student accidentally cut her left index finger while working with mouse lung tissue. No biologics or hazardous agents were involved with this incident.	No	No	N/A	EH&S confirmed with the student that the mouse was non transgenic and no rDNA or hazardous agents were introduced to the mouse. The student was educated on sharps safety practices.
BUMC	12/11/18	Laceration to left index finger	BSL2	No	A post doc cut her left index finger with a razor blade she used to remove cryoblock off a metal disc holder. She was sectioning transgenic mouse embryonic organ tissue. No hazardous agents were involved.	No	No	N/A	The post-doc was cut while she was demonstrating how to remove a razor blade from the metal cryotome attachment. It was a new razor blade that had just been opened. The only thing that it touched before cutting her finger was the edge of the frozen OCT media of the cryoblock and metal cryotome attachment. The blade was not in contact with the tissues inside the block. EHS reviewed safe sharps practices to ensure all sharps are properly handled and disposed of accordingly in a leak-proof, puncture proof labeled, sealable sharps container. All sharps waste generated should be disposed of immediately after use in a sharps container close to the point of operation (i.e. where the cryostat is setup). Overfilling of the sharps container must always be avoided. To protect against cuts, EHS recommended using cut resistant gloves when handling blades for the cryostat.

BUMC	12/17/18	Mouse bite to left index finger	ABSL2	No	A research technician was bit on her left index finger (over the proximal interphalangeal joint) while handling a mouse to check it's ear tag when it quickly turned its head and bit her. The supervisor who reports the mouse was a ABSL1 mouse that was in a ABSL2 lab. The mouse may have been transgenic, genetically modified wild type but does not have any foreign DNA inserted and did not contain any pathogens or other hazardous agents.	Yes	No	BPHC	This was a small mouse bite that occurred in the mouse facility and as noted in the ROHP report the mouse in question did not harbor any pathogens. Occasionally mice become agitated from routine handling and their normal responses are to try to bite or escape. Steps to prevent recurrence are non-applicable, as there are n additional mouse handling practices to recommend. When this incident occurred the researcher was following the SOP accordingly and wearing appropriate PPE.
BUMC	12/31/18	Shoulder, neck, and lower back strain	ABSL1	No	A supervisor for the animal science center spoke to the on call physician at ROHP to report that an employee noted back pain. NO EXPOSURE.	No	No	N/A	N/A
Charles River Campus (CRC)									
CRC	10/2/18	Acetic anhydride splash to chin	N/A	No	An organic chemistry student sustained a drop of acetic anhydride to her chin in the process of moving pipette.	No	No	N/A	It was recommended that the student refresh on lab safety and be more consciousness when handling fragile glass pipettes containing acetic anhydride.
CRC	10/2/18	Acetic anhydride splash to wrist	N/A	No	An organic chemistry student spilled a reagent (later learned that is was acetic anhydride) on his wrist.	No	No	N/A	This incident occurred at the same time as the one listed above on 10/2. Similar actions were taken. It was recommended that the student refresh on lab safety and wear better PPE for coverage.
CRC	10/3/18	Drops of possible acetic anhydride with water to face	N/A	No	An undergraduate student got a couple of drops of either acetic anhydride and water or just water on her face when she tapped her hand with the pipette.	No	No	N/A	It was emphasized to use caution when handling items contaminated with chemicals.
CRC	10/5/18	Non blood borne pathogen needle stick to finger with vinyl acetate residue	N/A	No	An undergraduate chemistry student sustained a needle stick that was contaminated with vinyl acetate residue.	No	No	N/A	The needle used in this incident was disposable type and there was no need to recap. The students are instructed to dispose of sharps immediately after use in an approved sharps container.
CRC	10/9/18	Cut to right thumb from broken tube	N/A	No	A chemistry student cut her right thumb on the bottom tip of an NMR glass tube that had solvents in it at one point, had been cleaned and oven dried. The glass did not contain any hazardous agents.	No	No	N/A	There was inaccurate information in the initial reporting. The student was cut by a glass pipet while preparing NMR sample, not cut by NMR tube. It was discussed with the student to use caution when handling glassware.
CRC	10/10/18	Needle stick to left index finger and exposure to Allyl Bromide	N/A	No	An undergraduate chemistry student sustained a needle stick which had been used to dispense ethidium bromide into a reaction and was not contaminated with anything else.	No	No	N/A	The procedure for using the needle and syringe to remove allyl bromide from it's stock bottle to transfer to her reaction mixture was reviewed and it was emphasized to use caution when handling needles contaminated with chemicals.
CRC	10/11/18	n-hexane splash to left wrist	N/A	No	An undergraduate student sustained a 1-3 drop splash of n-hexane from a pipette to intact skin on her left wrist.	No	No	N/A	There was a gap between the lab coat and her glove, causing her wrist to be exposed. In the future, she will ensure her PPE provides full protection.
CRC	10/11/18	Laceration to right thumb	N/A	No	The undergraduate student reports that she took a (clean) beaker from a storage shelf, because she saw a few drops of liquid in it (probably water) she decided to wash it before using it herself. While drying the beaker with a paper towel, she sustained a small laceration to the base of her right thumb.	No	No	N/A	The student was cut by a broken beaker while cleaning it with hands inside glassware. To best prevent recurrence, it was recommended to continue to inspect all glassware for damage prior to use and when cleaning use a brush instead of putting a hand inside glassware.

CRC	10/16/18	Laceration to finger on chipped beaker	N/A	No	An undergraduate chemistry student sustained a cut to finger from a chipped beaker.	No	No	N/A	The student was cut by a broken beaker while cleaning it with hands inside glassware. To best prevent recurrence, it was recommended to continue to inspect all glassware for damage prior to use and when cleaning use a brush instead of putting a hand inside glassware.
CRC	10/17/18	Irritation to ear exposed to chemical	N/A	No	An undergraduate student was working in an academic organic chemistry lab when she touched her ear with her gloved hand that may have been contaminated with di-chloryl methane or saturated sodium chloride.	No	No	N/A	The student was educated to handle chemical carefully.
CRC	10/22/18	Scratch to left index finger	N/A	No	An undergraduate organic chemistry student in an organic chemistry lab reported she noticed a scratch on her left index finger when she removed her gloves to enter another lab. She put a scoop of her "4 Bromo methyl benzoic acid" reaction sample in an infrared spectrometer using a metal spatula, closed the lid of the infrared spectrometer and noticed a sting on her left index finger like a paper cut.	No	No	N/A	The scratch may have occurred while she was either loading sample or wiping up after on the tip of the lid. To best prevent recurrence, it is advised to swing the lid sufficiently away from the sample plate to provide more clearance for working.
CRC	10/25/18	Glass shard puncture to left middle finger	N/A	No	An undergraduate student reports she felt a small piece of glass puncture her skin under her left middle fingernail as she set books on the floor.	No	No	N/A	With the assistance of the stockroom staff, the glass was removed with a pair of tweezers. The wound was rinsed with water and covered with bandage. The student then call ROHP and returned to the class. The origin of the broken piece of glass is unknown. Follow up with the student was performed by EHS.
CRC	10/25/18	Laceration to left index finger	BSL2	No	A medical student/teaching fellow sustained a laceration to his left index finger with a scalpel which had just cut through fixed human cadaver tissue.	No	No	N/A	It was suggested that the department develop an SOP to try to reduce the risk of potential exposure.
CRC	11/2/18	chemical burn- splash to chest	N/A	No	A graduate chemistry student sustained a 2-3 ml splash of trifluoroacetic acid to her chest when she slipped while holding a flask.	No	Yes	N/A	BUPD responded with EMTs who transported her to St. Elizabeth's Hospital. For further medical evaluation, she contacted the burn Center at MGH and continued care there. EH&S followed up with a risk assessment and suggested that the reason for the student to slip was due to the fact that the room was extremely warm, and may have created condensate on the floor. A work order was submitted to facilities to look into the heat issue with the lab.
CRC	11/6/18	Laceration to left thumb	BSL2	No	A PhD student accidentally cut her thumb with a scalpel that was used on formalin fixed paraffin embedded human aortic tissue sample. This is not considered a blood borne pathogen exposure as the human tissue has been formalin fixed in paraffin for 4 months.	No	No	N/A	An alternative procedure for loosening the paraffin wax was discussed with the student to assist with properly decontaminating the scalpel.
CRC	11/7/18	Puncture to left 3rd finger from glass	N/A	No	An undergraduate student sustained a puncture wound from a shard of glass while wiping down a fume hood during an academic organic chemistry lab session. No biologics involved.	No	No	N/A	The student cleaned and dressed the wound then left a message on the ROHP on call phone. The ROHP doctor returned the call but got the student's voice mail, so he left a message. The student followed up with ROHP after receiving the voice mail the following day. The lab was recommended to develop a procedure for cleaning of hood and dealing with broken glass.
CRC	11/14/18	Acid burn to right index finger	N/A	No	An undergraduate chemistry student accidentally spilled an acid based substance on her finger.	No	No	N/A	The acid was later identified as potassium acid phthalate. EHS reminded Chemistry Teaching Labs to report incidents to ROHP directly in the future. The student will be more careful when working with chemicals in the future.

CRC	11/27/18	Scalpel laceration to left ring finger	ABSL1	No	A lab tech accidentally cut her finger with a scalpel that had been used on a mouse. She had used the scalpel first on the mouse's scalp then used the scalpel to cut a wooden stick to use the stick to apply glue to a lens implant in the mouse brain. This was a non-transgenic mouse that had been injected with Adeno Associated virus two weeks ago.	Yes	No	BPHC	The researcher mentioned that she usually doesn't need to sharpen a wooden stick but this time deviated from the procedure and elected to use the scalpel because the stick was blunt on its end and could not be used for applying glue in its present state. EH&S reviewed the procedure with the researcher and confirmed that reusable surgical instruments must be disinfected following their intended use.
CRC	11/27/18	Right forearm grade 2 thermal burn	N/A	No	A chemistry student sustained a burn on his right forearm when he bumped his arm accidentally on a hot plate.	No	No	N/A	To prevent recurrence the procedures were reviewed with the student.
CRC	11/30/18	Chemical exposure to left middle finger	N/A	No	An undergraduate organic chemistry student noticed a tingling sensation on her finger when adding 2M sodium hydroxide (NaOH) to a plastic tube containing diethyl ether using a plastic dropper pipet, then inverted the capped tube to mix the chemicals.	No	No	N/A	The student was wearing 6mil nitrile gloves while performing the experiment. After discussion with EH&S it is suspected that there may have been a flaw in the glove. In the future, gloves will be examined before use for any damage such as tears or holes.
CRC	12/4/18	Chemical exposure to right forearm	N/A	No	An undergraduate student sustained a less than 1mm area exposure of iodoethane to forearm skin between the lab coat and glove. The student was pipetting chemicals in the hood when she noticed a white spot on her right forearm. It was later reported that the pipet's pump has malfunctioned. The exposure was caused by the malfunctioning pump and an improperly fitted lab coat. The sleeves of the lab coat were too short exposing part of the student's forearm.	No	No	N/A	The student cleaned the affected area for 5 minutes and reported it to her TF. The stockroom provided the student with the appropriate size laboratory coat that fits.
CRC	12/4/18	Chemical splash to chin	N/A	No	An undergraduate student reported she had splashed "some" potassium hydroxide on her chin and felt a slight burning sensation.	No	No	N/A	To prevent recurrence, when handling corrosive chemicals a fume hood should be utilized.
CRC	12/18/18	Chemical exposure	N/A	No	A graduate chemistry student reports she was splashed with ethylene glycol. The graduate student was changing glycol lines when some tubing became detached, with approximately 500ml of ethylene glycol soaking parts of her sweater, jeans, and boots.	No	No	N/A	The student didn't realize the line was turned on and immediately went to shut it off to stop the flow. She then removed her clothing and activated the safety shower. In review with EH&S, she said she would always check to make sure the valves were closed and also suggested that the valve be swapped to a ball valve (on/off only).
National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)									
NEIDL	10/5/18	Left axilla/torso contusion	N/A	No	A public safety officer reported she was hit under her left axilla area while working as a defensive tactics instructor.	No	No	N/A	N/A
NEIDL	11/26/18	Near miss - Suit zipper incident - No Exposure	BSL4	No	ROHP received a phone call at 11:05 am from biosafety officers at the NEIDL reporting a veterinary research assistant noticed his BSL4 suit zipper was slightly open two minutes into being in the BSL4 animal room which had no animals or active work with agents. The staff person has since exited the BSL4 without incident. In further discussion with the biosafety officers, there was no concern for exposure.	No	No	N/A	EH&S performed a risk assessment. The animal space is not registered with the CDC for work with Select Agents, therefore, the risk of exposure to select agents is very negligible. All BSL-4 systems (BAS) performed as designed.

Other - Collaborating Laboratory		No incidents							

* 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, etc.)

** Campus Location

BUMC - Boston University Medical Center

CRC - Charles River Campus

NEIDL - National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories

Other - work done at collaborating laboratories