

Potential Exposure Incident Reporting Summary July to September 2023

**CAMPUS	Date of Incident	Incident Type/Agent Involved	BSL	Description	Reportable Incident	Agency Reported To	Comments/Corrective Actions
BU Medical Campus (BUMC)							
BUMC	8/1/23	Splash of human gut anaerobic bacteria to left eye	BSL-2	Splash of human gut anaerobic bacteria to left eye	Yes	BPHC	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: PPE including safety eye protection will be worn during all lab procedures and according to Biosafety Manual.
BUMC	8/7/23	Left thumb cut	ABSL-2	Student sustained a cut on their left thumb from cryostat razor	No	N/A	Root Cause: Higher priority conflict. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: When mentoring newer staff attention to research will be emphasized.
BUMC	8/10/23	Cut to left thumb pad with a clean razor	BSL-2	Cut to left thumb pad with a clean razor blade while cutting a block containing a frozen cryo preservation sample from an adapter	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Sharp resistant gloves must be worn while completing tasks related to cryostat.
BUMC	8/16/23	Scratch from NHP or NHP cage - potential Herpes B virus exposure	ABSL-2	Scratch from NHP or NHP cage to left middle finger - potential Herpes B virus exposure	Yes	BPHC	Root Cause: Training; Inadequate procedure. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: ROHP will implement a process to provide medical clearance to Facilities personnel who will have access to spaces with NHPs. Personnel will be informed of health and medical risks associated with NHPs and exposures. Facilities personnel with access to these spaces will be required to complete an online training on hazards associated with NHPs. The training will be retaken annually. ACS has implemented and will provide support to Facilities personnel that responds to calls and services these spaces. ASC will meet with personnel to provide instructions on PPE and escort while on site. Facilities are instructed not to move cages and animals, and not touch any equipment associated with NHPs. ACS will move these equipment as necessary in order for Facilities to complete their work.
BUMC	8/17/23	Prick from a needle while cleaning floor drain	ABSL-2	Prick to right hand 4th digit from a needle while cleaning floor drain	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Inadequate procedure. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS instructed employee to use dust pan and broom to pick up sharps, not hands.
BUMC	9/15/23	Sterile needle puncture of right 4th digit finger pad	BSL-1	Sterile needle puncture of right 4th digit finger pad	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of awareness and understanding procedure. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS advised researcher to complete Sharps Safety Training.
BUMC	9/27/23	Needle stick to left thumb	ABSL-1	Needle stick to left thumb after using to inject Ketamine/ Xylene into a ABSL1 non transgenic, healthy mouse	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Inadequate procedure. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS advised researcher to complete Sharps Safety Training.
Charles River Campus (CRC)							
CRC	7/5/22	Chemical splash to eyes	N/A	Chemical splash to eyes	No	N/A	Root cause: Lack of PPE and poor use of engineering controls. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Acquire and wear appropriate eye protection and use fume hood with sash at protective barrier height.

CRC	7/10/23	Syncopal episode following puncture of finger	N/A	Student experienced a syncopal episode after witnessing a drop of blood on her finger after accidentally puncturing her finger with a clean needle	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS advised student to complete Sharps Safety Training and suggested senior lab members mentor and demonstrate correct techniques until individual is proficient.
CRC	7/11/23	Report of smelling cyclohexylamine	N/A	Student reported smelling cyclohexylamine while emptying out a cabinet in organic teaching lab	No	N/A	Root Cause: Equipment related; broken. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Damaged container of cyclohexylamine removed as hazardous waste. Course instructor was encouraged to eliminate use of hazardous amines from student experiments in the future.
CRC	7/12/23	Chemical splash to eye	N/A	PhD student had dichloromethane and methanol splash into her right eye	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Lab is to replace the safety glasses worn at time of incident with tightly sealed goggles according to Chemical Hygiene Plan.
CRC	7/25/23	Burn on right forearm on hotplate	N/A	Student burned right forearm on a hotplate	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not Conscientious. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Hot plates retain heat and should be turned off/unplugged several minutes prior to manipulating.
CRC	7/31/23	Splash of chemical to left wrist	N/A	Splash of beta-mercaptoethanol to L wrist	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: PI retrained lab on appropriate PPE. Wearing a buttoned down lab coat could have provided more barrier for small spill.
CRC	8/1/23	Non-transgenic mouse bite to left 2nd digit / allergic reaction	ABSL-2	Non-transgenic mouse bite to left 2nd digit / allergic reaction	No	N/A	Root Cause: Other. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Individual was advised to follow up with a medical advisor so that an allergy action plan can be developed. Going forward, this individual will defer animal handling responsibilities to other lab staff instead. This substitution should eliminate further contact and prevent possible exposures.
CRC	8/9/23	Percutaneous needle stick to left middle finger	ABSL-2	Percutaneous needle stick to left middle finger after injecting Evans blue to non-transgenic mouse	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Lack of awareness and understanding procedure. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS instructed no recapping of needles and advised student to complete Sharps Safety Training.
CRC	8/18/23	Cut to left palm	BSL-1	Cut to left palm with razor blade while cutting polymerized, non-hazardous material, no biologics	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Inadequate procedure. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS advised researcher to complete Sharps Safety Training and retrained on proper procedure.
CRC	9/19/23	Transgenic mouse bite to right thumb	ABSL-1	Transgenic mouse bite to right thumb	Yes	BPHC	Root Cause: Other. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Mouse involved with incident had dermatitis and employee should have applied more pressure to the affected area while scruffing as it could have prevented bite.
CRC	9/19/23	Drops of capsaicin and hexane on chin	N/A	Drops of capsaicin and hexane on chin	No	N/A	Root Cause: Engineering controls not used as intended. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Student was reminded to work with hood at sash height and asked to amend experimental procedures.

CRC	9/20/23	Splash drop liquid to face	N/A	Splash drop liquid to face	No	N/A	Root Cause: Building system issue. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: The student observed water leaking from the ceiling and believes the liquid may have come from this event unrelated to a chemical splash in the lab. EHS IH assessed ceiling leak and facilities was notified to repair.
CRC	9/22/23	Non-transgenic mouse bite to right 3rd digit	ABSL-2	Non-transgenic mouse bite to right 3rd digit, no biologics	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS advised new student to get mentored by more senior lab peers until they can demonstrate proficiency with scruffing technique.
CRC	9/25/23	Splash of 0.5 N KOH to lower leg	N/A	Splash of 0.5 N KOH to lower leg	No	N/A	Root Cause: House keeping issue. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: EHS recommended lab to arrange KOH waste towards the back of the students working areas away from higher trafficked areas.
CRC	9/26/23	Splash Hexane & Ethanol acetate to right wrist	N/A	Splash Hexane & Ethanol acetate to R wrist	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Manual bottle dispensing pumps take practice and can't be used with too much force. EHS educated student on good pump technique.
CRC	9/29/23	Non-transgenic mouse bite to left index finger	ABSL-1	Non-transgenic mouse bite to left index finger, no biologics	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training; Insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to Prevent Recurrence: Employee was retrained by PI on animal handling techniques.
National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)							
NEIDL	9/11/23	Eyes slightly irritated after dust from NHP cage chips blew up under face shield.	BSL-2	Eyes slightly irritated after dust from NHP cage chips blew up under face shield.	No	N/A	
NEIDL	9/26/23	BSL4 suit zipper breach - non exposure	BSL-4	BSL4 suit zipper breach- non exposure	No	N/A	Suit removed from use.
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