

Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) Program Student Exposure Policy

1. Students receive training on bloodborne pathogen (BBP) exposure at matriculation and annually.
2. Students are expected to be fully immunized for Hepatitis B and provide documentation of a Hepatitis B surface antibody titer showing immunity.
 - a. If the student is a non-responder (negative titer following two complete vaccine series), they are required to follow up with their healthcare provider and sign an attestation acknowledging their risk.
 - b. The program is notified if students have a non-responder status or a medical or religious exemption for Hepatitis B vaccines following a negative Hepatitis B surface antibody titer.
3. Students must follow [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) Guidelines for Standard Precautions](#) in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical sites when the potential for exposure to hazardous materials or bodily fluids exists. This includes treating all blood and body fluids as infectious, hand hygiene, safe injection practices, safe sharps management and disposal, use of personal protective equipment, and environmental control measures.
4. The following actions are required following a puncture or contamination event that occurs during enrollment in the Grand Valley State University PAS program:
 - a. The student notifies the instructor/faculty and clinical preceptor (as applicable).
 - b. The student applies appropriate first aid measures (i.e., clean the wound with soap and water; flush mucous membranes with water/saline for 15 minutes).
 - c. The student reports the exposure to the GVSU Health Compliance Officer (healthcompliance@gvsu.edu).
5. The following actions are required following a puncture or contamination event that occurs during a clinical placement at an affiliated organization:
 - a. The student immediately reports the exposure to the clinical preceptor and appropriate department following the individual clinical site protocol.
 - b. The student confirms that the source patient will be tested.
 - c. The student accesses the site's emergency department (as applicable) for testing and treatment as soon as possible. If the student is at an ambulatory location, the student accesses the nearest urgent care.
 - d. The student notifies the instructor of record and the GVSU Health Compliance Office at healthcompliance@gvsu.edu following initial treatment and testing at the clinical site.
6. The following actions are required following a puncture or contamination event that occurs at GVSU:
 - a. The student immediately reports the exposure to the appropriate faculty member and/or Simulation Center staff.
 - b. The source patient/student is immediately sent to Corewell Health Occupational Health at for testing.
 - c. Test results are communicated to the Health Compliance Officer. If needed, the exposed student is directed to the nearest Corewell Health Urgent Care for testing and counseling.
7. All fees and costs accrued as a result of source student testing for exposures that occur at GVSU are covered by the College of Health Professions. Follow-up testing/treatment can

be done by the source student's healthcare provider and is the sole responsibility of the student and/or their health insurance.

8. All fees and costs accrued as a result of an accidental exposure are the responsibility of the exposed student and/or their health insurance. The student and/or their health insurance will be billed, not workers' compensation or employee health. Follow-up testing/treatment can be done by the student's healthcare provider and is the sole responsibility of the student and/or their health insurance.
9. Upon program matriculation, students are required to sign a Health Insurance Acknowledgment Form indicating their financial responsibility for any student exposure events.