

**Purpose:**

This plan is designed to reduce exposure to pathogenic organisms that may exist in untreated wastewater. Also for staff that may be exposed to BBP when cleaning facilities', providing First Aid and Coroners staff. *Untreated wastewater is defined as "other potentially infectious material" (OPIM) by OSHA.*

**Employees at risk & Personnel that may be exposed to OPIM**

Housekeeping

Coroners' staff

Waste Water Operators

PW & FM Maintenance Workers

Laboratory Technicians

**Engineering controls & work practice controls designed to minimize exposure to OPIM:**

- Sinks with running water in buildings where potable water is available.
- Antibacterial soap and dispensers placed near every sink in the facility.
- Paper towels, towel dispensers, and bag-lined trash cans placed near every sink in the facility.
- Dispensers with pre-packaged antiseptic wipes or waterless antiseptic hand cleaner and paper towels in areas where exposure potential exists, but potable water is not available, or a sink is not practical.
- Glove dispensers located near jobs where exposure might occur.
- BBP Spill kits containing absorbent material, gloves, mask and Bio-Medical waste trash bag.

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### **Work area restrictions. Certain activities may be restricted in areas of potential exposure**

- Employees shall not eat, drink, apply cosmetics, smoke or handle contact lenses.
- Food and beverages may not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, or cabinets, or on counter tops, shelves, or bench tops where waste products are present.
- Mouth pipetting of wastewater or related waste products is prohibited.

### **Wastewater Sample Restrictions**

- a. Wastewater samples should be placed in durable plastic containers provided by the facility to prevent leakage during collection, handling, processing, storage, and transport.
- b. Primary containers must be placed in a secondary container for handling, processing, storing, and transporting to reduce risk of outside contamination.

### **All personal protective equipment used at the facility must be chosen based on the anticipated exposure to OPIM or related waste products and provided without cost to employees**

- ✓ Gloves must be worn when working on tasks where employees may have hand contact with OPIM, wastewater, or related waste products.
- ✓ Lab coats must be worn during process testing.
- ✓ Waterproof gear, such as boots and tear-proof suits must be worn when entering water or when possible splash is likely to occur.
- ✓ Protective eyewear must be worn in areas where wastewater splashing occurs.
- ✓ Uniforms must be removed and laundered after contamination.

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### Facility Sanitation:

- ✓ Used disposables, such as gloves, paper towels, and towelettes, must be placed in lined trash containers, which are located in each building.
- ✓ Wash-down of wastewater or related waste products to the sanitary sewer must be performed as soon as possible following spills.
- ✓ Handling of contaminated laundry must be minimized. Laundry containers must be located in the locker room area for uniforms and in the laboratory for used towels.
- ✓ Gloves must be worn when handling contaminated laundry. Laundry must be cleaned by a laundry service notified of OSHA standards.
- ✓ Proper BBP cleaning kit is to be used to absorb BBP material and disposed using BBP Medical waste bags.

### Hepatitis B Vaccine:

All employees who may be exposed to OPIM must be offered a free hepatitis B vaccine within 10 working days of their initial assignment to work involving exposure potential.

 DuPage County Health Dept. is the preferred provider for employee vaccinations. Costs charged back to Department. DPCHD Clinics require appointments for vaccinations.

Employees who decline the hepatitis B vaccine must sign a waiver adopted from the OSHA standard. A copy of the form is Exhibit 1.

The site manager is responsible for coordinating vaccinations and assuring that waivers are signed.

### Post-Exposure Evaluations and Follow-Up:

Exposure to wastewater may pose severe health risks in some cases.

The employee's supervisor should fill out the standard WC incident report form and see that the employee contacts Injury call center.

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### Training:

All employees should be trained before initial assignment to tasks where occupational exposure may occur. Training should include the following information:

- The OSHA standard for bloodborne pathogens.
  - Modes of bloodborne pathogen transmission.
  - The facility's exposure control plan.
  - Procedures at the facility that might cause exposure to OPIM.
  - Control methods used at the facility to limit exposure to OPIM.
  - Personal protective equipment available at the facility.
  - The hepatitis B vaccine program.
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- All employees exposed to OPIM should receive annual refresher training.
  - Training records are required and must be maintained by the staff's manager and Risk Management.