

Public Health
Central Zone

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019

To: Central Zone Emergency Dept. Physicians and Staff;
Central Zone Family Physicians;
U. of A. Rural Family Medicine program;
Nurse Practitioners

From: Dr. Digby Horne , Medical Officer of Health – Central Zone

Re: Public Health Role in the Management and Follow-up of Blood and Body Fluid Exposures (BBFEs)

Recent proposed changes to the reporting process for some Blood and Body Fluid exposures (BBFEs) may increase the likelihood that you become involved in the management of BBFEs. Accordingly, Central Zone Communicable Disease Control (CDC) and Medical Officers of Health (MOH) would like to ensure you are aware of Public Health resources and assistance for the management of patients with BBFEs.

The Central Zone MOH webpage contains useful links under the *Resources* tab (www.ahs.ca/czmoh; alternately search “MOH Central Zone” on the AHS Home page):

- [The BBFE Central Zone Risk Assessment form](#) provides:
 - contact information for the referral-for-management of BBFEs involving AHS/Covenant employees to Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) services
 - a systematic process to assess the risk of transmission of HIV, hepatitis C, and hepatitis B to the recipient (exposed patient)
 - CDC phone no. for use if consideration is being given to the release of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
 - a list of recommended baseline viral serology tests for the recipient and source (patient that is the origin of the blood/body fluid); STI testing for sexual assault patients; and baseline chemistry, hematology, and pregnancy testing for patients commencing HIV PEP
 - CDC fax number. Faxing the completed form to CDC will result in the following actions, as appropriate:
 - organizing baseline viral serology tests for the source if not already done
 - notifying the recipient and source of their viral serology test results
 - arranging hepatitis B vaccine/hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) administration for the recipient and hepatitis B vaccine for the source

- facilitating 6 and 12 week follow-up hepatitis C and HIV testing by the Family Physician
- organizing 6-7 mo. follow-up to confirm absence of hepatitis B infection and effectiveness of hepatitis B immunization
- [The Culture and Serology Requisition form](#) allows ordering of the recommended baseline viral serology/STI testing referred to above.
The [Sample BBFE Source/Sample BBFE Recipient](#) requisitions illustrate how to complete the requisition so that correct tests are ordered and results expedited.
- [The BBFE Know the Facts Brochure](#) provides information to recipients about precautions to take until they receive confirmation that infection has not occurred.
- The Alberta Health [Post-exposure management and prophylaxis guidelines](#) (full name: *Alberta guidelines for non-occupational, occupational and Mandatory Testing and Disclosure Act post-exposure management and prophylaxis: HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections*) provides detailed information concerning the management of BBFEs.

If you have questions or concerns about the management or follow-up of patients with BBFEs, please contact CDC: 8:30-4:30 Mon.-Fri. 403-356-6420; other times 403-391-8027.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.