

BU Agent Incident Reporting Summary October to December 2021

**CAMPUS	Date of Incident	Incident Type/Agent Involved	BSL	Description	Reportable Incident	Report of Clinical Illness	Agency Reported To	Comments/Corrective Actions
BU Medical Campus (BUMC)								
BUMC	11/1/21	Right thumb cut	BSL-1	ROHP received a call from an Animal Science Center supervisor that an Animal Care Technician had cut her right thumb. No bioglics were involved.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Equipment related. IVC break lock levers should be routinely checked and any defective equipment removed out of circulation until repaired.
BUMC	11/2/21	Contusion to left ankle	ABSL-2	An Animal Care Technician was seen at ROHP after injury to his left ankle.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: House keeping issue. Reviewed best practices with employee and recommended use of additional carts for stacking cages.
BUMC	11/15/21	Transgenic mouse bite to right thumb	ABSL-2	A Principal Investigator called ROHP to notify ROHP that a master's student was bitten by a clean mouse.	Yes	No	BPHC	Root Cause: Not conscientious. Suggested that mice should acclimate longer before handling.
BUMC	11/26/21	Transgenic mouse bite to left thumb	ABSL-2	ROHP on physician received a call from a researcher who sustained a mouse bite to left thumb from an untreated mouse who had been genetically modified.	Yes	No	BPHC	Root Cause: Not conscientious. Going forward, researcher will scruff the mouse according to animal training.
BUMC	12/6/21	Report of fevers and headaches since 12/13/21 and late reporting of sharp incident 12/6/21	ABSL-2	ROHP received a telephone call from a MD/PhD student around 9:00 calling from his home to report he was experiencing low grade temperatures in the afternoon and night, headache, some fatigue and neck pain since Monday 12/13/21. He also reports that he didn't report at the time but remembers accidentally sustaining a sharp injury to his right hand on 12/6/21 while cleaning tools he used.	Yes	No	BPHC	ROHP determined that the researcher symptoms were unrelated to the incident in question. Root Cause: Not conscientious. Reviewed procedures for reporting incidents. They were advised on proper decontamination techniques. Sharps safety practices were discussed and online sharps safety training was assigned as a reminder.
Charles River Campus (CRC)								
CRC	10/15/21	Undergraduate student and Teaching Fellow exposed to chemical vapors	N/A	ROHP received a call from a Lab Supervisor that an undergraduate student had reported that she had inhaled what she thought was Benzyl Bromide in her chemistry class while cleaning a flask. ROHP also spoke with the Teaching Fellow who indicated that he was standing a few feet from the student and the time and that vapors were actually sucked in his direction.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Engineering controls not used as intended. Student, TF and Course Instructor were all interviewed by EHS for follow up. They were instructed to handle chemicals and wash glassware inside the hood and to dispose of chemical residue as hazardous waste. The Course Instructor will eliminate benzyl bromide as a reagent used in the teaching class.
CRC	10/18/21	Cut to left thumb	N/A	An undergraduate student called ROHP to report that she accidentally cut her left thumb on a tiny piece of glass from a pipette 15 minutes earlier.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Equipment related. Lab supplies (re-usable bulbs) should be routinely checked and any defective equipment removed out of circulation.
CRC	10/18/21	Red hands after chemical exposure to gloved hands	N/A	ROHP on call physician received a call from a Teaching Fello and student that the student got dichloromethane on her gloves and found her hands were red.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Other. Student reported they have sensitive skin and dry hands and this could have contributed to the irritation. The thickness of the nitrile glove was appropriate. EHS reviewed good glove hygiene and frequent hand washing.
CRC	10/20/21	Right thumb cut	N/A	ROHP received an email on 10/20/21 from Incident Report Form Qualtrics survey completed by a teaching fellow in a Biology Teaching Lab regarding a percutaneous incident.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Insufficient Skills or Expertise. Student reported they were reaching for an iodine dropper bottle that unknowingly had a loose cap. The spilled India ink was cleaned up appropriately along with the broken glassware. They will be more mindful of their surroundings in the future and make sure glassware is capped prior to transferring to new location.
CRC	10/21/21	Student spilled chemical on gloved left hand	N/A	ROHP on call physician received a call from a Lab Assistant that a student had spilled Isopulegol on a portion of her gloved left hand and felt a burning sensation and noticed some redness.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not conscientious/equipment related. Pipet could have been defective. Student was retrained in good lab practices.
CRC	10/25/21	Red and itchy area on right hand	N/A	ROHP received a call from a Teaching Fellow in Chemistry reporting that an undergraduate student had reported an area on her right hand as being red and itchy.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not conscientious. EHS counseled student to always treat everything in the lab as contaminated, to maintain situational awareness, avoid rushing, and to continue to practice good lab and PPE hygiene.
CRC	10/25/21	Burning sensation to right shoulder	N/A	ROHP on call physician received a call from a Teaching Assistant and student who reported that he was holding a tube in his right gloved hand while waiting in line for next step in the lab when he felt a slight burning in his right shoulder.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Engineering Controls Not Used as Intended/Lack of Awareness and Understanding of Procedure. Student was retrained on safe fume hood operations and reminded to keep sash height at recommended low level when handling chemicals.

CRC	10/25/21	Splash to gloved hand	N/A	ROHP on call physician received a call from a Teaching Assistant that a student had splashed diluted sulfuric acid on her gloved hand.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not conscientious. EHS counseled student to always treat everything in the lab as contaminated, to maintain situational awareness, avoid rushing, and to continue to practice good lab and PPE hygiene.
CRC	10/25/21	Student experienced headache from a chemical	N/A	ROHP received an incident report on 10/27/21 from a classroom Chemistry professor that a student had reported a headache from the odor of 4-ethylphenol after minutes during a classroom experiment.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Other. The fume hood was retested and passed certification. EHS recommended student be given modifications to take breaks during class or be cleared for an appropriate type of respirator.
CRC	10/26/21	Finger exposed to chemical	N/A	A professor emailed ROHP on 10/27/21 to report a student in a teaching lab was exposed to a drop of 4-isopropylaniline to ? Finger while not wearing gloves.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. Student was instructed they must wear gloves at all times when handling chemicals in the laboratory.
CRC	11/3/21	Bilateral hand lacerations	N/A	A BU Student Health Services nurse contacted ROHP to report that a student had cut their right hand on a beaker.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Insufficient Skills or Expertise. Going forward the student will use two hands to wash glassware in the sink to avoid accidental breakage.
CRC	11/5/21	Puncture to left 3rd digit with needle	N/A	ROHP received a call from a Graduate Student mentor that a student had been stuck with a needle with tetrahydrofuran.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Insufficient Skills or Expertise. Recommend lab consider using blunt or rounded tip, rather than sharp needles whenever possible. Student was assigned Sharps Safety Training and procedures involving needle use were reviewed.
CRC	11/18/21	Bruise on right hand	N/A	ROHP on call physician received a call from an undergraduate student that she noticed a purple bruise on the dorsum or her right	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: None identified. Bruise was determined to be unrelated to any reported lab incident.
CRC	11/18/21	Cut to right hand with a glass pipette	N/A	A Teaching Fellow called ROHP to report that a student had cut their right hand on a clean empty pipette.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Training, No procedure/Inadequate procedure. EHS recommended using wooden sticks as plungers rather than glass pipettes.
CRC	12/2/21	Chemical splash to right eye	N/A	ROHP received a call from the after hours answering service that an undergraduate student. The on call physician called the student back and spoke to the undergraduate student assistant who indicated that the student had gotten dichloromethane in her right eye.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. Safety glasses worn at time of incident were not appropriate and allowed a drop of chemical to splash underneath the lens and contact the student's eye. Safety goggles need to be worn when working with dichloromethane.
CRC	12/10/21	Right wrist exposure to chemical	N/A	A Teaching Fellow submitted an online Qualtrics report to ROHP that an undergraduate student in a teaching lab sustained an exposure to diethyl ether to their wrist.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not conscientious/equipment related. Process was reviewed with student and EHS recommended alternatives to transfer diethyl ether to graduated cylinder.
National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)								
NEIDL	10/8/21	Puncture to left 4th digit with surgical scissors	BSL-3	ROHP received a call from the Associate Director of NEIDL High Containment reporting that a senior research scientist in BSL3 had punctured the tip of her left ring finger with the tip of a scissors.	Yes	No	BPHC	Ensure that NEIDL Control has updated emergency call lists for BSL-3/4.
NEIDL	12/7/21	Breach of BSL-4 suit	BSL-4	ROHP received a call from a Scientific Safety Officer reporting that a BSL-4 researcher noticed a suit tear after having worked in containment and while in the chemical shower.	Yes	No	BPHC	Positive Pressure suit was retired. New suits were ordered from a different supplier to replace defective suit batch.
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

** Campus Location

BUMC - Boston University Medical Center

CRC - Charles River Campus

NEIDL - National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories

Other - work done at collaborating laboratories