

BU Agent Incident Reporting Summary January to March 2022

**CAMPUS	Date of Incident	Incident Type/Agent Involved	BSL	Transmissible Person to Person	Description	Reportable Incident	Report of Clinical Illness	Agency Reported To	Comments/Corrective Action
BU Medical Campus (BUMC)									
BUMC	1/19/22	Exposure to UV-C light bulb	N/A	No	Safety Specialist reports he was exposed to UV light.	No	No	N/A	UV was listed on the hazard communication sign posted by the front door to lab entry. One employee/visitor accompanying the walk-through mistakenly turned the switch on and had assumed it was a regular light switch. UV light was immediately switched off. Root Cause: Training and Lack of Awareness. EHS reminded employee not to touch anything UV related in a laboratory unless cleared by RPO.
BUMC	1/22/22	Transgenic mouse bite to right finger	ABSL-1	No	ROHP on call physician reported that he received a call from an Animal Care Technician reporting a mouse bite to right finger.	Yes	No	BPHC	Root Cause: Insufficient Skills or Expertise. Employee is onboarding and undergoing animal handling training until proficient.
BUMC	1/31/22	Right Forearm jammed between door and rack	N/A	No	An Animal Care Technician reported that the wheels of the rack he was pulling got stuck in a door jam which resulted in him jamming his right lower arm between the rack and door.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Inadequate Procedure. Two people must be involved when carts of this weight are moving from one building to another, so one can hold the door open while the other pushes the cart.
BUMC	2/1/22	Cut to left thumb	BSL-2	No	A researcher reported cutting the base of his left thumb with a razor while cutting unfixed, human kidney tissue.	Yes	No	BPHC	Medical surveillance was not recommended because donor sourced material was negative for bloodborne pathogens and razor used during incident was new. Root Cause: Inadequate Procedure. The researcher completed Sharps Safety Training as required following a sharps injury. EHS also recommended alterations on the laboratory protocol to include sharp resistant gloves be worn to mitigate risk.
BUMC	2/7/22	Cut to tip of left thumb	BSL-2	No	An undergraduate student researcher notified ROHP that she had very superficially, cut the tip of her left thumb with a cryoblade.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Insufficient Skills or Expertise. Employee was instructed to follow lab specific SOP, educated about sharps safety and trained for proficiency.
BUMC	2/10/22	Percutaneous injury to R thumb	ABSL-2	No	A PhD student sustained a puncture to his right thumb with tweezers as he tried to extract zebrafish tissue that had been previously been preserved in formaldehyde.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not Conscientious. Tweezers did not make any contact with the tissue before it injured the finger. The student completed Sharps Safety Training as required following a sharps injury. EHS recommended using sharp resistance gloves for procedures involving sharps.
BUMC	2/14/22	Scratch to right hand	ABSL-2	No	A PhD student called ROHP to report that he had scratched his right hand between his thumb and second digit on a chipped beaker.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: No Procedure and Improper disposal. Any defective, broken equipment needs to be removed from circulation and disposed of.
BUMC	3/28/22	Unknown needlestick to upper abdomen	BSL-2	No	A Research Study Technician walked into ROHP escorted by a coworker reporting he was stuck by an unknown needle.	Yes	No	BPHC	Root Cause: No Procedure/Inadequate Procedure, Improper Disposal. ROHP interviewed the employee who reported the needle was used for research unrelated to any bloodborne pathogens however researcher has been put in medical surveillance. EHS advised laboratory to discard needles immediately after use and maintain better laboratory housekeeping practices. The lab was retrained in sharps safety.

Charles River Campus (CRC)									
CRC	1/6/22	Right index finger cut	N/A	No	A Laboratory Safety Officer from an Organic Chemistry Research Lab called to report a PhD graduate student accidentally cut her right hand on glassware.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Inadequate Procedure. EHS discussed alternative waste containers. Any spring closing lids need to be held open with the built in hook and glassware managed with two hands.
CRC	2/3/22	Right middle finger laceration	N/A	No	An undergraduate student sustained a cut on right middle finger using a cryostat machine to section a fruit fly.	No	No	N/A	No hazardous agents were involved. Root Cause: Insufficient Skills or Expertise. The guard was not in place while the student was in the process of mounting the specimen to the plate. In-person training on the use of the cryostat had taken place prior to injury. Student was retrained on proper use.
CRC	2/3/22	Lentivirus needle puncture to left 2nd digit	BSL-2	No	Researcher reported that she had performed Lentivirus injection into transgenic mouse pups. After the experiment, while washing a PVC tube, the tube fell off and she punctured her left second digit finger.	Yes	No	BPHC	ROHP completed a risk assessment and determined the incident posed no HIV risk or oncogenic potential. Root Cause: No Procedure/Inadequate Procedure and Lack of PPE. The student The completed Sharps Safety Training as required following a sharps injury. EHS advised always to discard needles that become disconnected to PVC tube. Do not try to reconnect used needles with PVC tubing. Use sharp resistance gloves during cleaning process of the PVC tubing and needle.
CRC	2/7/22	Puncture to left middle finger	N/A	No	Undergraduate student sustained a puncture to left middle finger as a glass pipette slipped as she tried to attach a bulb to the pipette.	No	No	N/A	Pipette was clean and no biologics or chemical hazardous agents involved. Root Cause: Inadequate Procedure. Training was reinforced according to instruction provided in class.
CRC	2/8/22	Cut to left 5th finger	BSL-2	No	A 2nd year PhD student sustained a cut on his left 5th finger from a piece of glass	Yes	No	BPHC	Root Cause: Poor Contamination Control. Any broken glass needs to be immediately picked up after and disposed of using tongs and/or dust pan and brush into a rigid sharps container. EHS recommended better laboratory housekeeping.
CRC	2/8/22	Non-transgenic mouse bite/scratch to left hand 4th digit	ABSL-1	No	A research assistant called ROHP to report a mouse bite or scratch to left hand 4th digit.	No	No	N/A	Mouse was non-transgenic with no hazardous agents involved. Root Cause: Not Conscientious. Researcher is re-reviewing SOP and will follow techniques from hands-on teaching that was provided by lab manager.
CRC	2/12/22	Cut to right index finger	N/A	No	ROHP spoke with a 3rd year Chemistry PhD student who reports on he accidentally cut his right index finger with a knife.	No	No	N/A	The knife had just been taken out of its package prior to incident, so was clean without any chemical hazards or other agents. Root Cause: Equipment Related. EHS recommended lab select sharps with added safety features and student completed Sharps Safety Training as required following a sharps injury.
CRC	2/14/22	Blister to left 4th finger	N/A	No	A PhD student contacted ROHP after hours to report he sustained a small blister on his left 4th finger while mixing chemicals which caused sparks and fire out of the test tube.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of Awareness/Understanding of Procedure and Lack of Oversight/Supervision. Student did not follow laboratory specific SOP at time of incident. PI was not notified of proposed laboratory work prior to initiating. EHS recommended purchasing the readily available salt instead of synthesizing it. Substitution is a safer alternative. Laboratory was retrained in SOP, SDS and response actions.

CRC	2/14/22	Cut to 2nd digit right hand	N/A	No	ROHP on-call physician received a call from a Research Fellow who reported cutting her right hand 2nd digit.	No	No	N/A	No biological concerns were reported with this incident. Root Cause: Equipment Related, Defective. The lab has replaced the old -20 freezer with a new one that does not have any sharp metal edges as part of the shelving system.
CRC	2/17/22	Burn to left thumb	N/A	No	A safety specialist called ROHP to report a graduate student sustained a burn to her left hand while in a chemistry laboratory.	No	No	N/A	Cause of fire suspected to be aerosolized ethanol vapors too close to ignition source (lit Bunsen burner). Fire was extinguished and responded to by EHS, BUPD and BFD. Root Cause: No Procedure/Inadequate Procedure. Student went to the emergency room for medical follow up. EHS provided the lab additional Bunsen burner and flammables safety training.
CRC	2/19/22	Cut to finger	N/A	No	ROHP on-call physician received a call from a student indicating that after she removed glove she noted blood inside her glove. She had been dissecting a cadaver at the time with a scalpel but did not recall a cut.	No	No	N/A	To be determined
CRC	2/25/22	Burn to left index finger	N/A	No	ROHP received a call from a TA who reported a student sustained a mild burn to left index finger on a hot plate during their organic teaching lab.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not Conscientious. EHS advised only to manipulate hot objects with the hand wearing the hot mitt or tongs.
CRC	3/14/22	Chemical exposure to face	N/A	No	ROHP received a call from a Safety Specialist reporting she received an email from a laboratory manager and director of operations that a chemistry teaching student sustained a possible exposure to a chemical on her face.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not Conscientious and Poor Contamination Control. EHS instructed student to in the future remove gloves and wash hands before touching face when working in a laboratory.
CRC	3/18/22	Chemical spilled to left gloved hand	N/A	No	ROHP received a call from a Teaching Assistant to report that an undergraduate student in chemistry class had spilled dichloromethane on her gloved hand while pouring the chemical for an experiment.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of PPE. EHS provided advise on proper glove selection and hygiene. The lab manager was instructed to acquire thicker nitrile gloves for labs working with organic solvents.
CRC	3/24/22	Right upper cheek exposed to chemical	N/A	No	ROHP received a call from a Teaching Fellow reporting that an undergraduate student in their chemistry class had touched her left cheek with a gloved hand that had a chemical solution on it and was complaining of burning and itching feeling.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not Conscientious and Poor Contamination Control. EHS instructed student to in the future remove gloves and wash hands before touching face when working in a laboratory.
CRC	3/28/22	Cut to left thumb	N/A	No	A sophomore undergraduate student while in a chemistry teaching class around cut her left thumb with a glass pipette.	No	No	N/A	Plastic pipettes generally are not compatible with laboratory procedure described at time of incident. Root Cause: Not Conscientious. EHS counseled student to not feel pressured to finish quickly and was retrained on Sharps Safety.
CRC	3/29/22	Cut to left index finger	N/A	No	Cut to left index finger from glass NMR tube containing chemical.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Lack of Awareness/Understanding of Procedure. Student attempted to use wrong tool for the job. Blunt end, glass tubes are not recommended for punching holes in paper. EHS counseled student and advised they eliminate the use of glass all together.
CRC	3/30/22	Transgenic mouse bite to left hand, no biologics	ABSL-2	No	ROHP received a call from a Senior Research Scientist to report that she was bitten by a mouse on the top of her left hand.	No	No	N/A	After following up with ROHP, later that evening the employee went to the emergency room for more medical consultation. Root Cause: No Procedure/Inadequate Procedure. Researcher reported going forward they would allow more time for the animal to adjust to it's surroundings, would not place the mouse on the back of hand and instead follow laboratory animal handling techniques.

CRC	3/31/22	Burn to left thumb pad	N/A	No	A Teaching Fellow called ROHP to report that an undergraduate student had burned his left thumb pad on a hot plate.	No	No	N/A	Root Cause: Not Conscientious and Lack of Awareness/Understanding of Procedure. Instructors need to remind students to double check that hot plates have cooled down before moving them at the end of class.
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National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)									
NEIDL	1/12/22	Staff entered lab unsuited	BSL-4	No	BSL4 staff person entered lab unsuited thinking it was off-line	Yes	No	BPHC	There were improvements in means of communications from EHS to BSL4 user by a direct email list, signage in every perimeter door, and additions to the daily check list. An new annual training was created for the requirements to enter off-line BSL4 labs and new door signage.
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