Emergency Procedures

Spills

- For spills that are large, may have generated aerosols, or have pathogens with an aerosol route of exposure, leave room immediately to allow aerosols to dissipate with the room ventilation. Wait at least 15 minutes. Call OLS for assistance if the spill is large.
- Check to see if you were contaminated. If so, follow exposure procedures.
- Survey the location and limit access to areas where there is potential contamination. Make sure those in the area are not contaminated before they leave.
- Don gloves, coat and eye protection.
- Cover the spill with absorbent material such as paper towels
- Carefully pour appropriate disinfectant on the spill working toward the center. Be careful not to splash and allow sufficient contact time (10 - 15 minutes). Fresh 10-20% bleach is generally appropriate.
- Clear away the materials. If there is broken glass, use tongs or a dustpan and a piece of stiff cardboard to collect the glass and put into a sharps container.
- Clean up gross contamination first without spreading it then work inward from cleaner areas to the dirtiest areas applying more disinfectant as needed.
- If spill contains a hazardous chemical, call Health & Safety (4-4347) for advice.

Exposures

- Remove contaminated clothing and put in a red biohazard bag.
- Immediately wash the exposed area in a sink or a eyewash or shower for 15 minutes. Contaminated skin should be washed with soap or a mild disinfectant.
- Those attending should be careful not to become contaminated as well
- Ross Hall faculty and staff should go to employee health in the GWU hospital (ground floor, room 1092) as soon as possible where they can receive treatment. All other individuals should report to Student Health (2141 K St, Suite 501). The employee will have access to post-exposure evaluation and follow-up. All treatment must be provided by or under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional.
- All services will be at no cost to the employee. Students must have these services paid for with health insurance.
- Fill out an incident report and submit it to OLS or Health & Safety.
- Contaminated garments must be disinfected at no cost to the employee by using a laundering company that provides this service or by using a method such as autoclaving before returning them to the worker. Otherwise they must be discarded as regulated medical waste.