

BU Agent Incident Reporting Summary October to December 2022

**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	10/13/22	First degree thermal burn to neck	BSL-2	A Post-doctoral Associate called ROHP to report that he sustained a burn to his right neck	No	No	N/A	Root cause: equipment related, broken. Steps to prevent recurrence: repair autoclave so it is in good working operation with no vibrations.
BUMC	10/25/22	Mouse bite to left thumb pad	ABSL-1	Mouse bite to left thumb pad in training room	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training, insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS advised employee receive more training from animal trainer until proficient with animal restraint techniques.
BUMC	11/21/22	Rat bite to left thumb	ABSL-1	Rat bite to left thumb	No	No	N/A	Root cause: not conscientious. Experienced employee was separating mother rat away from her babies and it accidentally bit employee during a health check. Steps to prevent recurrence: employee will follow procedures and apply tighter grip.
BUMC	11/22/22	Transgenic mouse bite	ABSL-1	Transgenic mouse bite with no hazardous agents involved to right index finger middle knuckle	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training, insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS advised employee receive more oversight with animal trainer until proficient in handling animals and transfer procedures.
BUMC	12/8/22	Exposure - scalpel used on frozen human brain tissue	BSL-2	Bloodborne pathogen exposure from scalpel used on frozen human brain tissue	Yes	No	BPHC	Root cause: lack of personal protective equipment and training; inadequate procedure/no procedure. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS advised lab use cut resistant gloves for procedure and replace scalpel with punch cutters that pose less risk. Individual was retrained on sharps safety.
BUMC	12/27/22	Needle stick to right thumb, potential Herpes B virus	ABSL-2	Needle stick to right thumb while obtaining blood work from non-human primate	Yes	No	BPHC	The type of needle used was equipped with a safety engineered device that had not been engaged. Root cause: not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: additional sharps safety training was conducted to ensure proficiency along with continued diligence and re-review of sharps safety engineered devices.
Charles River Campus (CRC)								
CRC	10/1/22	Eye discomfort after laser use	N/A	ROHP received a call from EHS that a student may have sustained a potential injury/exposure to left eye	No	No	N/A	This was a near miss incident. Root cause: individual not trained and lack of personal protective equipment. Steps to prevent recurrence: RPO inspected laser equipment and had lab add more shielding. The lab SOP was revised and all lab members were retrained.
CRC	10/3/22	Cut tip of right thumb after breaking a clean pipette	N/A	ROHP received a call from a Teaching Fellow that a student was handling a glass pipette and it broke in her hand causing a small hole puncture	No	No	N/A	Root cause: broken equipment and lack of understanding of procedure Steps to prevent recurrence: use a wooden stick to stuff column not glass.

CRC	10/4/22	Splash of chemical to eyes involving two students	N/A	ROHP received two Qualtrics survey reports and a call from a laboratory supervisor that two students had sustained a splash of chemical to eyes	No	No	N/A	Root cause: lack of personal protection equipment and insufficient skills and expertise. Steps to prevent recurrence: wear required PPE and work cautiously with chemicals.
CRC	10/6/22	Finger burn on hot crucible	N/A	A Teaching Fellow called ROHP to report that a student had touched a hot crucible with their left middle finger	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training; insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to prevent recurrence: use tongs or mitts to move hot equipment.
CRC	10/7/22	Minor burn to finger from touching a hot plate	N/A	ROHP received a message that a student in Organic Chemistry had touched a hot plate in the lab	No	No	N/A	Root cause: not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: student should have held their hand above equipment to feel heat radiating off and avoided direct contact.
CRC	10/7/22	Burning sensation on hand from a chemical	N/A	Burning sensation on hand from a chemical that got on the students glove	No	No	N/A	Root cause: lack of adequate PPE Steps to prevent recurrence: 12 mil Ansell Chemical protective gloves will be used for experiment.
CRC	10/11/22	Splash of chemical to forehead	N/A	ROHP received a call from a Teaching Fellow that a student got a chemical splash on their forehead	No	No	N/A	Root cause: housekeeping issue and lack of personal protective equipment. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS recommended wearing face shields while working at bench top and to always check pumps for residual liquid trapped in them prior to use.
CRC	10/17/22	Cut finger on a clean glass	N/A	Cut finger on a clean glass		No		Root cause: not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: student was retrained on how to handle capillary tube that is highly breakable.
CRC	10/19/22	Splash of chemical on glove	N/A	Splash of chemical on glove caused mild skin irritation to right 5th digit	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training; no procedure/inadequate procedure. Steps to prevent recurrence: inspect tubes prior to inverting them for mixing to ensure chemical contents won't spill and vessel is completely sealed.
CRC	10/20/22	Splash of chemical to tongue	N/A	A Teaching Fellow called ROHP to report that a student sustained a chemical splash to his mouth	No	No	N/A	Root cause: engineering controls not used as intended. Steps to prevent recurrence: sash height of fume hood needs to be used at appropriate operational height and below the shoulders at all times.
CRC	10/20/22	Needle stick injury to left thumb	N/A	ROHP received an after hours call that an undergraduate student had sustained a needle stick after injecting a chemical into a closed system	No	No	N/A	Root cause: not clear understanding of procedure and not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: clamp vessel tightly and do not use hand as stabilizer.
CRC	10/21/22	Splash of chemical to chin	N/A	ROHP received a call from a Laboratory Assistant that an undergraduate student felt a splash on her from a chemical while mixing a solution	No	No	N/A	Root cause: engineering controls not used as intended, not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: keep hood sash at appropriate working level.
CRC	10/24/22	Possible Respiratory Exposure to chemical	N/A	Possible Respiratory Exposure to chemical while cleaning out a Desiccator	No	No	N/A	Root cause: broken equipment and engineering controls not used as intended. Steps to prevent recurrence: replace broken dessicator with a new one and when handling hazardous waste use fume hood at appropriate operational sash level.
CRC	10/25/22	Chemical spilled on gloved hands	N/A	Student spilled chemical on gloved hands and hands turned orange	No	No	N/A	Root cause: poor contamination control. Good glove hygiene was reinforced with EHS.

CRC	10/26/22	Potential exposure of chemical solution to face close to eye	N/A	Potential exposure of chemical solution to face close to eye	No	No	N/A	Root cause: poor contamination control. Steps to prevent recurrence: remove any potentially contaminated gloves prior to removing goggles and touching face/eyes.
CRC	10/28/22	Right thumb cut on glass flask	N/A	Right thumb cut on glass flask	No	No	N/A	Root cause: equipment related, broken. Steps to prevent recurrence: inspect for broken and/or scratched glassware and remove from lab use.
CRC	11/2/22	Bilateral hand rash after holding tube containing multiple chemicals	N/A	Bilateral hand rash after holding tube containing multiple chemicals	No	No	N/A	Root cause: none identified. EHS performed air quality monitoring and VOCs in instructional lab were found to be within normal limits. EHS recommended individual seek a medical professional to determine cause of skin irritation that poses as a general allergen concern potentially unrelated to lab environment.
CRC	11/3/22	Possible exposure to chemical solution to hands	N/A	Possible exposure to chemical solution to hands	No	No	N/A	Root cause: lack of personal protective equipment and housekeeping issue. Steps to prevent recurrence: when handling unknown concentrations of either strong acids or bases, students should wear thicker gloves while removing any residuals during clean up and dishwashing.
CRC	11/3/22	Chemical exposure to right eye involving student in Chemistry lab	N/A	Chemical exposure to right eye involving student in Chemistry lab	No	No	N/A	Root cause: poor contamination control. Steps to prevent recurrence: remove any potentially contaminated gloves prior to removing goggles and touching face/eyes.
CRC	11/3/22	Chemical spill to forehead and hair	N/A	Teaching assistant was observing a student transfer chemical and some of it spilled on the student's forehead and hair	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training: insufficient skills or expertise and lack of personal protective equipment. Steps to prevent recurrence: when working at benchtop all lab members need to wear appropriate PPE and can have splash guards in place to prevent accidental exposures.
CRC	11/4/22	Right hand irritation after working with chemical	N/A	Right hand irritation after working with chemical	No	No	N/A	Root cause: lack of personal protection equipment. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS recommended lab use thicker gloves with longer cuffs.
CRC	11/7/22	Mild burn to right hand from hot water getting underneath sleeve	N/A	Mild burn to right hand from hot water getting underneath sleeve	No	No	N/A	Root cause: insufficient skills, not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: use heat resistant gloves and lower bath water level.
CRC	11/9/22	Blurry vision and lightheaded while in chem teaching lab	N/A	A Teaching Fellow contacted ROHP to report a student was not feeling well and thinking symptoms may be related to "too much gas".	No	No	N/A	Root cause: none identified. EHS found no reportable volatile organic compounds or gas of concern when testing the lab environment on scene.
CRC	11/10/22	Needle puncture to left hand	ABSL-1	Needle puncture to left hand while scruffing a mouse that had been injected with Ketamine		No		Clean mouse, non transgenic and no ketamine injected in person. Root cause: insufficient skills and not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: diligently follow the SOP concerning injection in mice.

CRC	11/11/22	Spilled chemical on arm through lab coat	N/A	Student spilled chemical on arm through lab coat	No	No	N/A	Root cause: insufficient skills or expertise. The chemical student was working with is known for having low surface tension and can be difficult to pipette. Steps to prevent recurrence: Student was retrained on technique.
CRC	11/15/22	Cut to left index finger on glass	N/A	Cut to left index finger on glass tube with chemicals	No	No	N/A	Root cause: not conscientious. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS recommended using less force when attempting to cap a glass tube.
CRC	11/18/22	Slightly pink area on right hand after cleaning glassware from lab	N/A	Student noticed slightly red area on his right hand after removing glove following cleaning of glassware from lab	No	No	N/A	Root cause: lack of personal protection equipment. Steps to prevent recurrence: EHS recommended lab use thicker gloves with longer cuffs.
CRC	11/28/22	Possible chemical inhalation	N/A	Possible chemical inhalation	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training; inadequate procedure. Steps to prevent recurrence: Move balance to inside the fume hood for weighing chemicals.
CRC	11/28/22	Hand irritation after touching notebook which had chemical spill	N/A	Student called after hours to report that he was experiencing mild hand itching after touching notebook that had spilled chemical	No	No	N/A	Root cause: poor contamination control. Steps to prevent recurrence: lab notebooks should be kept outside of the hood to prevent contamination and contaminated.
CRC	11/30/22	Student used mouth to try to blow reactants out of glass tube	N/A	Student used mouth to try to blow reactants out of glass tube	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training; inadequate procedure. Steps to prevent recurrence: follow procedures as written and demonstrated by instructor.
CRC	12/5/22	Student punctured finger	N/A	Student punctured right ring finger when glass connector broke	No	No	N/A	Root cause: training; insufficient skills or expertise. Steps to prevent recurrence: student needed to be retrained in procedure and educated on sharps safety training.
National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)								
NEIDL	10/27/22	Tear in outer glove, near-miss	BSL-4	Researcher reported tear in outer glove	No	No	N/A	Continue doing best practices (donning multiple gloves and dunking hands in microchem solution before, during and after work).
NEIDL	11/2/22	Outer suit gloves torn, near-miss	BSL-4	Research Support Technician found to have torn outer suit gloves after exiting BLS 4 lab	No	No	N/A	Retraining by the mentor for the selection of suit and attaching gloves to the suit
NEIDL	11/29/22	Suit glove tear right palm, near-miss	BSL-4	Report of a suit glove tear to right palm	No	No	N/A	continue doing best practices (donning multiple gloves and dunking hands in microchem solution before, during and after work).
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