

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this summer we announced some important changes and enhancements to our Employee Health operations to provide team members better coordinated services, including for exposure protocols. As we continue to enhance our operations, we are further refining our bloodborne pathogen exposure process to be more in line with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommendations.

On Sept. 1, Baylor University Medical Center, Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center – Fort Worth and Baylor Scott & White Heart and Vascular Hospital – Dallas will transition to the new process, followed by Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Waxahachie on Sept. 9. We plan to have all hospitals and clinics follow the new process in the coming weeks.

**What’s changing:**

* Immediately upon exposure, employees will be required to notify their immediate supervisor or the house supervisor **and call the new Needlestick Hotline at 1-877-BSW-STIK (or 1-877-279-7845)**
* Employees will no longer have baseline labs drawn unless the source is unknown or positive. Exposure panel labs will be ordered on the source/patient.
* The lab will then report results back to the Needlestick Hotline and a member of the Employee Health team will notify the employee of the results:
  + If negative, no further action is needed at that time and Employee Health will follow-up with the rest of the lab results as applicable
  + If positive, employees will get baseline testing completed and be offered counseling and treatment
* Employees will still need to complete a MIDAS form for their exposure

Employee Health members will be conducting more in-depth training at each facility over the next few weeks. The exposure packet and incident report forms are available on the [Employee Health resource site](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__bsw.pmail4.com_PoliteMail_default.aspx-3Fpage-3DJnye2q-2D7V0CIwdqVoyDgUg-26ref-5Fid-3De5ag7HlxjkSp5g8Z89MZdA&d=DwMGaQ&c=qhent5lL-8Lans1hhN7NTGhSd0GBLfQfwUvzHj1D5tQ&r=pbNUTWWf1H35W7isCoIFFtY-lb2g_x9Zvvh1TRPJBe4&m=ZQeStVVJNBPPBWGsDcX-y1c0p-im3p11iT2KOc6KAY8&s=-my6iRCFsENp1wfdUmW3BxR5UHf0brWcKD5Lj3YU53o&e=).

Should you have any questions, please email Nicki Souza at [Nicole.Souza@BSWHealth.org](mailto:Nicole.Souza@BSWHealth.org).

Thank you for your support as we continue to enhance our patient and employee clinical safety processes.

Sincerely,

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **The Employee Health Team** |