**Statement of Purpose**

The Vancouver Island University (VIU) community is exposed to community / naturally based infectious diseases on a yearly basis. These diseases are brought to VIU through our students, staff, contractors, and visitors and range from the common cold to tuberculosis. VIU and its employees will undertake the following activities to minimize the impact of these diseases on the VIU community.

***Scope*** – For the purposes of this exposure control plan the following infectious diseases have been classified as ‘easily transmissible’ throughout the campus community at large. These include,

* Hepatitis A
* Noroviruses
* Chicken Pox
* Measles
* Mumps
* Unusually infectious strains of seasonal influenza

Other infectious diseases with a low risk of transmission (bloodbourne pathogens, anti-biotic resistant bacteria, tuberculosis, zoonotics, rare / exotic diseases) will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and the affected individuals.

This exposure control plan does not include pandemic diseases. These are covered in the ‘VIU Pandemic Plan for Influenza and other Communicable Diseases’.

**Responsibilities of the Employer, Supervisors, and Workers**

***VIU* –** VIU has the following responsibilities in controlling the spread of community based infectious diseases:

* To provide timely notification to the campus community when a person has introduced one of the easily transmissible infectious diseases onto campus property or VIU related activities.
* To maintain an awareness campaign to promote the benefits of regular hand washing and secondary to this, an awareness campaign promoting hand sanitization and proper coughing and sneezing techniques.
* To maintain adequate and clean washroom facilities stocked with soap and paper towels. Secondarily, to maintain and stock a series of hand sanitizer stations positioned strategically about the campuses.
* To provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), training, and safe work procedures for workers who are at high or moderate risk of contracting an infectious disease.
* Ensure contractors (i.e. janitorial employees, security employees, etc.) are properly trained to WorkSafe BC Regulations and VIU related policies, procedures, guidelines and this Exposure Control Plan.
* To maintain records of training and incidents of infectious diseases on VIU property or sanctioned activities and monitor the effectiveness of this exposure control plan.

***Supervisors*** – Those supervising personnel at VIU have the following responsibilities for controlling the spread of infectious diseases:

* Encourage sick employees to stay home, rather than coming to work.
* Maintain contact with sick employees to monitor their recovery and ensure that they are non-contagious before returning to work.
* To report known incidents of infectious diseases on campus to Health and Safety Services Department and to report to Facilities Services if soap and hand sanitized dispenser are empty at any location.
* To ensure that employees who have a high or moderate job related risk of contracting an infectious disease have been trained in risk control measures, are following approved safe work procedures, and using appropriate PPE.

***Employees*** – All employees at VIU have the following responsibilities to minimize the spread of infectious diseases at VIU:

* To stay home when ill with one of the listed infectious diseases and not return to work until the contagious phase of the illness has passed. This should be determined by the employee’s physician.
* To report their illness to their supervisor and the Health and Safety Services Department in a timely manner to aid in notification to the campus community.
* To follow the practices outlined in VIU’s awareness campaign with respect to hand washing, hand sanitizing, and appropriate methods for coughing and sneezing to minimize disease transmission.
* To use all necessary PPE and follow safe work procedures for any job that could expose the worker to infectious diseases as identified in the risk identification and assessment.

**Risk Identification and Assessment**

***Bloodbourne Pathogens***

*Diseases and Routes of Transmission* - Bloodbourne pathogens include HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B and C. Blood from an infected person must gain entry to the bloodstream of a non-infected individual either from a puncture wound or a splash to the eyes, nose, or an open wound.

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| **People at Risk** | **Location** | **Tasks** | **Risk Level** |
| RN/LPN Instructors and Students | Local hospitals and related locations on practicum placements. | Directly interacting with the blood and bodily fluids of potentially infected individuals. | High |
| Dental Instructors and Students | In clinical settings both on campus and on practicum. | Directly interacting with the saliva and blood of potentially infected clients. | High |
| Sterile Supply Technician Instructors and Students | Local hospitals on practicum placements. | Interacting with contaminated sharps prior to decontamination. | High |
| Esthetician Instructors and Students | On campus in the salon. | Interacting with sharps and other objects that can be contaminated. Potentially interacting with contaminated bodily fluids. | Moderate |
| Occupational First Aid Attendants | Responding to calls on all VIU Sites. | Directly interacting with the bodily fluids of potentially infected individuals. | High |
| Groundskeepers | While working on all VIU sites. | Discovery and removal of potentially infected sharps found on VIU grounds. | Moderate |

***Contact Diseases***

*Diseases and Routes of Transmission*

1. Hepatitis A – Results in temporary illness from which the person recovers and generates anti-bodies. Can survive on surfaces for up to three months. Infection is generally acquired through direct or indirect oral contact with infected surfaces, food, or water.
2. Noroviruses – A short-lived gastrointestinal illness that is generally acquired through direct or indirect oral contact with infected surfaces. Can survive for days on surfaces. Is killed by the cooking process and disinfectants.
3. Bacterial Infections – MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), VRE (Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci), C. Difficile (Clostridium Difficile) – All can survive for on surfaces for days to a week. Disinfecting and hand washing the most effective methods for controlling the spread. Alcohol based hand sanitizers are effective against MRSA and VRE but are not effective against C.Difficile.

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| **People at Risk** | **Location** | **Tasks** | **Risk Level** |
| All members of the campus community | Primarily indoors, though some outdoor transmission is possible. | Daily activities that all staff, students, and visitors would undertake. | Low. |

**Airbourne Diseases**

*Diseases and Routes of Transmission*

1. Tuberculosis – Airbourne transmission through droplets only, cannot survive on surfaces. People usually need several days spent with someone with TB to become infected. 90% of those infected become carriers and are not symptomatic.
2. Chicken Pox- Airbourne transmission through droplets only, cannot survive on surfaces. Direct contact with the infected persons sores can also transmit the infection.
3. Measles – Can survive on surfaces for up to two hours and can remain suspended in the air for 30 minutes. Most contagious disease known. Direct contact with the infected person’s sores can also transmit the infection.
4. Mumps – Spreads through direct contact and through airbourne droplets. Infection enters through the nose or mouth.
5. Influenza – Influenza is spread through large droplets in sneezes or coughs, but the range of transmission is less than 2m from the infected person, as the large droplets settle out quickly. Influenza can also survive on surfaces for hours and cause indirect infection.

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| **People at Risk** | **Location** | **Tasks** | **Risk Level** |
| All members of the campus community | Primarily indoors, though some outdoor transmission is possible. | Daily activities that all staff, students, and visitors would undertake. | Low. |

**Zoonotic Diseases**

*Diseases and Routes of Transmission*

1. Campylobacteriosis – Transmitted through the feces of animals, which inadvertently become ingested.
2. Hantavirus – Found in the feces, saliva, and urine of some wild mice. Can be transmitted through oral contact or when dried feces are disturbed and become airbourne.
3. Rabies – Transmitted through saliva from infected animals, usually through a bite.
4. Lyme Disease – Transmitted through infected deer ticks, and is found on Vancouver Island.
5. Cruptococcus Gattii – Transmitted through airbourne fungal spores. Found on some trees on eastern Vancouver Island.

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| **People at Risk** | **Location** | **Tasks** | **Risk Level** |
| Groundskeepers and Facilities Services Workers | Both outdoor and indoor, all campuses. | Grounds keeping, cleaning, and general maintenance work. | Moderate |
| Instructors and students in the field | Indoor and outdoor field work. | Surveys, fieldwork, and other direct interactions. | Moderate |

**Risk Controls**

**Bloodbourne Pathogens – Nursing, Dental, and Sterile Supply Technician Practicums**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | Instructors and students will use all controls put in place by the host agency. |
| Administrative | Instructors and students will respect and abide by all internal procedures at the host agency and maintain adequate supervision of students. |
| PPE | PPE will be provided by the host agency. Instructors and students will use all indicated PPE. |
| Training | General training will begin at VIU and specific training will be provided by the host agency. |
| Safe Work Procedures | Instructors and students will be responsible for adhering to all safe work procedures provided by the host agency. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | All exposures must be reported immediately to the host agency and the agency’s post-exposure protocol will be followed. |
| Reporting | All exposures must be reported immediately to the host agency and after the fact to VIU Health and Safety Services. |

**Bloodbourne Pathogens – Dental Clinic at VIU Nanaimo**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None. |
| Administrative | Pre-screening of clients. |
| PPE | Nitrile based gloves, surgical masks, protective eyeglasses, and scrubs. |
| Training | Course material based training for safely working with blood, saliva, and other bodily fluids. |
| Safe Work Procedures | Follow the Infection Control Procedures and the Safety Procedures specified by the Dental Program |
| Post-Exposure Actions | Follow VIU’s ‘Puncture Protocol’, which is a procedure for the immediate treatment of punctures and splashes involving contaminated fluids. |
| Reporting | All exposures must be reported to VIU Health and Safety Services. |

**Bloodbourne Pathogens – Aesthetics Program Practicums**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None. |
| Administrative | Pre-screening of clients. |
| PPE | Nitrile based gloves. |
| Training | Course material based training for safely working with blood, saliva, and other bodily fluids. |
| Safe Work Procedures | Follow the Infection Control Procedures and the Safety Procedures specified by the Aesthetics Program. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | Follow VIU’s ‘Puncture Protocol’, which is a procedure for the immediate treatment of punctures and splashes involving contaminated fluids. |
| Reporting | All exposures must be reported to VIU Health and Safety Services. |

**Bloodbourne Pathogens – Occupational First Aid Attendants**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None. |
| Administrative | None. |
| PPE | Nitrile gloves. N95, face shield, and or glasses / goggle if needed. |
| Training | OFA1 or OFA2 training pursuant to WorksafeBC Regulations. |
| Safe Work Procedures | OFA’s will follow safe work procedures included in their OFA training and will follow specifics of VIU’s first aid procedures. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | Follow VIU’s ‘Puncture Protocol’, which is a procedure for the immediate treatment of punctures and splashes involving contaminated fluids. |
| Reporting | All exposures must be reported to VIU Health and Safety Services. |

**Bloodbourne Pathogens – Groundskeeping**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None |
| Administrative | None |
| PPE | Leather gloves, tongs, approved sharps containers. |
| Training | Training on safe removal of used sharps found in the environment. |
| Safe Work Procedures | Contaminated Sharps Removal Procedure. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | Follow VIU’s ‘Puncture Protocol’, which is a procedure for the immediate treatment of punctures and splashes involving contaminated fluids. |
| Reporting | All exposures must be reported to VIU Health and Safety Services. |

**Contact Diseases – General Community**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None. |
| Administrative | Regular janitorial services throughout the campus. Specific deep cleaning available in response to specific incidents. |
| PPE | None. |
| Training | Public awareness campaigns – Reducing Infectious Disease Transmission, Hand Washing and Sanitizing. |
| Safe Work Procedures | None. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | Communication with the campus community and leaseholders via email and In VIU forum for awareness and information dissemination. |

**Airbourne Diseases – General Community**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None. |
| Administrative | Regular janitorial services throughout the campus. Specific deep cleaning available in response to specific incidents. |
| PPE | None. |
| Training | Public awareness campaigns – Reducing Infectious Disease Transmission, Hand Washing and Sanitizing. |
| Safe Work Procedures | None. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | Communication with the campus community and leaseholders via email and InVIU forum for awareness and information dissemination.  Communication with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) regarding incidents of tuberculosis and follow-up with VIHA to ensure effected community members are adequately cared for. |

**Zoonotic Diseases – Grounds Keeping, Maintenance, Fieldwork**

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| **Type** | **Control** |
| Engineering | None. |
| Administrative | None. |
| PPE | N95, Half-mask HEPA filter, gloves, and or eye protection as appropriate to the situation and the specific zoonotic disease identified. |
| Training | Local Zoonotic Disease Information Form. |
| Safe Work Procedures | Clean Up Procedure for Rat and Mice Feces. |
| Post-Exposure Actions | If exposure is suspected or know, the affected individuals must seek immediate medical attention. |
| Reporting | All exposures must be reported to VIU Health and Safety Services. |