Student Safety

Bloodborne Pathogens

Certain college coursework may have the potential of exposing students, to some degree, to bloodborne pathogens. The particular college courses that may present the potential for exposure to bloodborne pathogens have been identified in the Course Descriptions area of the College Catalog. The following is some general information concerning bloodborne pathogens.

Bloodborne pathogens are viruses, bacteria, and other microorganisms that are “borne” (carried) in a person’s bloodstream or body fluids and can cause disease. If a person is exposed (comes in contact with) to blood or body fluids infected with a bloodborne pathogen, the person may become infected.

OCCC has implemented various means of decreasing the potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Some of the ways that potential exposure has been decreased are by engineering controls, safe laboratory work practices, and the required wearing of personal protective devices. Also, OCCC promotes and encourages the practice of “Universal Precautions,” when applicable. Universal Precautions means treating everyone’s blood and certain other body fluids as infectious at all times.

Those students who are enrolled in class coursework that may have a potential of being, to some degree, exposed to bloodborne pathogens may choose to consult their personal physician for advisement concerning the additional protection provided by taking the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) vaccine. The HBV vaccine provides protection against the Bloodborne Pathogen - Hepatitis B virus.

The HBV vaccine is given in a series of shots (usually three over a six-month period of time). A person must take all three shots for the vaccine to be the most effective. Please note that if a student chooses to take the HBV vaccine series, the cost of the vaccine is the responsibility of the student.

Copies of OCCC’s Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan are available in the Office of Risk Management. The Exposure Control Plan provides detailed information on the prevention and control of exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Campus Police Department

The Campus Police Department is located on the first floor of the Main Building, Room 1K8, and is staffed continuously during all building operating hours. The Campus Police Department has the responsibility to provide a college environment that is both safe and secure. The Campus Police Department is the immediate point of contact to report criminal behavior or for any other emergency on campus. The department officers are Basic Life Support qualified and manage the College’s traffic and parking operations, which includes ensuring compliance with state laws and college rules for parking and traffic flow.

Routine services provided by the Campus Police Department include motorist assistance and parking lot escorts when requested.

Emergencies on Campus

Any emergency should be handled by dialing College extension 7747 or by pressing the emergency button on any college phone, or using the emergency call boxes located at most building exits and in the parking lots for assistance. Dialing 911 connects callers with Oklahoma City Emergency Services. This may delay the arrival of assistance for several minutes as OCCC Campus Police Officers are unaware of your need for assistance.

Emergency Procedures for Persons with Disabilities

Persons in wheelchairs on the buildings’ upper levels that have no direct exit other than stairs will evacuate to a stairwell marked “safer refuge”. An emergency phone is at each location to contact Campus Police. Campus Police and/or Oklahoma City Fire personnel will provide safe departure from those locations.

Students with a visual impairment should be escorted to the exit or safe refuge. Students with a hearing loss respond to visual alerts and exit if no interpreter is present.

Health Emergencies

The College’s Basic Life Support system is designed to provide immediate emergency medical care to persons on campus. Should a medical emergency arise, dial College extension 7747 or press the emergency button on any college phone, give the location of the emergency and, if possible, the nature of the emergency. The police dispatcher will then dispatch an officer and contact appropriate outside agencies for emergency medical assistance.

Fire

Emergency fire exits, manual fire alarm stations and fire extinguishers are provided throughout the campus. These fire safety devices are clearly marked and you should become familiar with their locations. Should a fire occur:

- Activate the manual alarm system. Manual alarm stations are at most exits.
• Dial College extension 7747 or by press the emergency button on any college phone and notify the police dispatcher of the location and severity of the fire.
• Evacuate the building.