



Environmental Control of Communicable Disease Program

Environmental Public Health (EPH) works with Harvard University Health Services (UHS), schools, departments and individuals to provide assistance for the environmental control of communicable disease.

The major components of the program include the following:

- Surveillance and reporting
- Environmental investigation
- Student support services

For most situations, UHS makes an initial determination about whether or not a student requires support services while they are recovering from a communicable illness at the time of their discharge from the infirmary. For each disease, EPH supports students by collaborating with UHS to discuss the mode of transmission and develops appropriate environmental control measures. If custodial services are required to support the student, EPH works with the specific unit's custodial service provider to specify appropriate disinfection products, PPE and work practices. When students require re-location out of a shared dormitory room to an alternate site with a private bathroom, EPH and others meet with the student to explain the services they will be provided with during the re-location.

EPH also conducts investigations to determine causes and controls for emerging cases of illness that may have an environmental association.

Residential Sharps Disposal Program

Environmental Public Health facilitates the Residential Sharps Disposal Program, providing safe, secure sharps disposal units at specified locations in common areas within the residential houses. Contact our program for assistance with sharps disposal in Harvard residential housing on campus. For individual sharps disposal containers for student use, contact University Health Services for more information.