Emergency Eyewash Station Protocol

1. **Definition:**
   a. Eyewash stations are required by law in areas where a person may be at risk for injury as a result of contact with a biological or chemical substance. Accidental exposure to such hazards can cause severe injury; use of an emergency eyewash station aims to mitigate injury to the eyes due to contact with a harmful substance. Eyewash stations must be accessible and tested weekly to ensure they are in proper working order.
   b. For additional information on eyewash requirements, refer to the Environmental Health & Safety Eyewash and Shower Equipment Standard.

2. **Responsibility:**
   - Managers, or Supervisors or Principal Investigators shall:
     - Ensure that all workers are informed about the proper operation of the eyewash stations.
     - Maintain the eyewash stations: weekly testing and annual replacement of eyewash filters. Other maintenance as required.

3. **Equipment:**
   a. Eyewash station locations:
      - In all anterooms/cold rooms: 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1451A, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1461, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1473
      - Adjacent to deluge showers in the open wet lab between rooms 1443/1444 (AISLE 1440-E), 1453/1454 (AISLE 1450-L), and 1463/1464 (AISLE 1460-W)
      - Across from rooms 1456 (AISLE 1460-S) and 1467 (AISLE 1460-AA) next to laboratory sinks

4. **Procedures:**
   a. Using the eyewash:
      - Open water supply fully.
      - Place eyes in water stream.
      - Hold both eyelids open with your fingers.
      - Have a co-worker call for appropriate medical attention.
      - Rinse until the time specified on the MSDS has been reached. If necessary, have a coworker look up the appropriate time and then time you.
      - If using an older eyewash and the temperature becomes unbearable, move to the nearest tepid eyewash to ensure the appropriate flushing period was completed.

   b. Inspection of the eyewash:
      - Ensure that the path to the eyewash is easily accessible and is not obstructed. Keep in mind that the injured worker would be in distress, and may have to rush to the emergency unit with eyes closed.

- Verify that nozzle caps on the eyewash units are in place to prevent contamination and that the nozzles, nozzle caps, and bowl/sink are clean and sanitary.
- Actuate the valve to full open position. Water must flow within 1 second.
- Verify that nozzle caps come off when the eyewash is activated.
- Verify that water continues to flow until manually turned off and that the flow stays on without requiring the use of the operator's hands.
- For a tepid eyewash put your hand in the stream of the water to ensure that it is tepid; not too cold or too hot.
- Look at the flow pattern of the eyewash. It should provide a gentle non-injurious flow. Water streams should flush both eyes simultaneously.
- Flushing of the system should be conducted for as long as is needed to empty the pipe of stagnant water. The time required could be as little as 10 seconds or as much as three minutes (the ANSI-specified time). Wipe up any water left on the floor.
- If the eyewash is working as necessary then log the date of the test and the initials of the tester.
- Report problems to admin.tbep@utoronto.ca.

Note: The eyewash stations should also be inspected annually by Environmental Health and Safety.

5. References:

a. https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Emergency-Eyewash-and-Shower-Std.pdf
b. https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Eyewash-and-Shower-Needs-Assessment-Flowchart.pdf