

Biological Spill

Notes and Precautions

Biological spills outside biological safety cabinets will generate aerosols that can be dispersed in the air throughout the laboratory. These spills are very serious if they involve microorganisms that require Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 containment, since most of these agents have the potential for transmitting disease by infectious aerosols. To reduce the risk of inhalation exposure in such an incident, occupants should hold their breath and leave the laboratory **immediately**. The laboratory **should not** be reentered to decontaminate and clean up the spill for at least 30 minutes. During this time the aerosol will be removed from the laboratory by the exhaust air ventilation system. Appropriate protective equipment is particularly important in decontaminating spills involving microorganisms that require BSL2 or BSL3 containment. This equipment includes lab coat with long sleeves, back-fastening gown or jumpsuit, disposable gloves, disposable shoe covers, and safety goggles and mask or full face shield. Use of this equipment will prevent contact with contaminated surfaces and protect eyes and mucous membranes from exposure to splattered materials.

BSL1 Lab Spill

1. Wear disposable gloves.
2. Soak paper towels in disinfectant and place over spill area.
3. Place towels in plastic bag for disposal.
4. Clean spill area with fresh towels soaked in disinfectant.

BSL2 Lab Spill

1. Alert people in immediate area of spill.
2. Put on protective equipment.
3. Cover spill with paper towels or other absorbent materials.
4. Carefully pour a freshly prepared 1 in 10 dilution of household bleach around the edges of the spill and then into the spill. Avoid splashing.
5. Allow a 20-minute contact period.
6. Use paper towels to wipe up the spill, working from the edges into the center.
7. Clean spill area with fresh towels soaked in disinfectant.
8. Place towels in a plastic bag and decontaminate in an autoclave.

BSL3 Lab Spill

1. Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
2. Alert people in the laboratory to evacuate.
3. Close doors to affected area.
4. Call **Biological Spill Emergency Response** number.
5. Have person knowledgeable of incident and laboratory assist emergency personnel.