

## **Biological Agent Exposure Instructions -- 2022**

Biological agents are:

- Recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules, transgenic plants, transgenic animals, and materials containing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.
- Biologically active agents (i.e. toxins, allergens, venoms) that may cause disease in other living organisms or cause significant impact to the environment or community.
- Infectious agents or hazardous biological materials that present a risk or potential risk to the health of humans, animals to the environment. Includes organisms and viruses infectious to humans, animals or plants (e.g. parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi, prions, rickettsia); infectious animal wastes.

### **1. Initial Emergency Procedures and General Follow-up**

#### **A. Initial Steps:**

1. Provide assistance to persons involved and remove them from exposure to further injury if necessary. Do not move an injured person who is not in danger of further harm.
2. Immediately call 911 if the situation is life or health threatening.
3. Call the Safety Office (766-3277) if:
  - a. Trained personnel and/or proper cleanup equipment are not available.
  - b. You want advice.
4. Attend to the incident as per Standard Operating Procedure.

#### **B. General Follow-up**

1. Seek medical attention for injury, illness or exposure that could result in illness.
2. Notify the Biosafety Specialist (307-766-2723).
3. Submit a Workers Compensation claim to UW Human Resources (HR),
4. Submit an accident report to the Safety Office,
5. The Biosafety Specialist or other UW designated personnel will report the incident to required agencies.

### **2. Loss of Biological Containment**

Loss of containment is an unplanned or uncontrolled release of a material from control or limits.

Steps:

1. Call for help. Alert the person assisting to stay a safe distance away.
2. Direct the helper to block the hall where the spill occurred.

3. If appropriate, ask the helper to direct the department office or work unit's office to alert personal to avoid the hallway where the spill occurred, and call the Safety Office, or 911 if appropriate.

Note: If building evacuation is necessary, do not activate the fire alarm system unless there is a fire. When the fire alarm system is activated, the building air handling system shuts down.

4. Ask the helper for other assistance such as a spill kit for personnel decontamination if needed.

5. Immediately notify the supervisor, who will immediately call the Biosafety Specialist. Report the theft, loss, or accidental release of any biohazard.

6. For small spills the PI or lab personnel should follow decontamination procedures. Or, if needed, allow the Haz Mat team decontaminate and clean up the spill (911 and UW Regulated Materials Management Center (RMMC, 307-766-3697).

7. Follow reporting and general follow-up procedures.

### **3. Personnel Exposure or Contamination**

Steps:

1. Apply emergency first aid as needed or call 911.
2. Decontaminate person by cleaning exposed skin surface with soap/water, eyewash (eyes), or saline (mouth).
3. Notify supervisor.
4. Contact Ivinson Emergency Room, Grand Avenue Urgent Care, or a personal health care provider for treatment/counseling.
5. Follow reporting and general follow-up procedures.

### **4. Research Related Illness**

A research related illness may be suspected if an illness develops with symptoms of those for the biological agent being studied.

Steps:

1. Contact Ivinson Emergency Room, a health care provider, or Grand Avenue Urgent care for treatment/counseling.
2. Notify supervisor.

3. Follow reporting and general follow-up procedures.

## 5. Reporting to Federal Agencies

Contact information is located in Appendix A.

### A. Incidents involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic molecules.

The Biosafety Specialist or other UW personnel as appropriate will report to NIH OBA any spill or accident involving recombinant DNA research in biosafety level 2 containment or higher resulting in overt exposure or that otherwise leads to personal injury or illness or to a breach of containment. These kinds of events might include skin punctures with needles containing recombinant DNA, the escape or improper disposition of a transgenic animal, or spills of high-risk recombinant materials occurring outside of a biosafety cabinet. Failure to adhere to the containment and biosafety practices articulated in the NIH Guidelines must also be reported to OBA. Minor spills of low-risk agents not involving a breach of containment that were properly cleaned and decontaminated generally do not need to be reported. OBA should be consulted if the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), investigator, or other institutional staff are uncertain whether the nature or severity of the incident warrants reporting; OBA can assist in making this determination.

### B. How to Report

Report incidents to the Biosafety Specialist or if not present, to the Safety Office.

The Biosafety Specialist or designate will report for the University any significant problems, violations of the NIH Guidelines, or any significant research-related accidents and illnesses to NIH OBA within 30 days. Certain types of accidents must be reported on a more expedited basis. Spills or accidents in BL2 laboratories resulting in an overt exposure must be immediately reported to NIH OBA. Spills or accidents occurring in high containment (BL3) laboratories resulting in an overt or potential exposure must be immediately reported to NIH OBA.

Report to Kathryn Harris, Ph.D., RBP Senior Outreach and Education Specialist 6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750 Bethesda, MD 20892 Phone: 301-496-9838 Fax: 301-496-9839 Email: [harriskath@od.nih.gov](mailto:harriskath@od.nih.gov).

One report for each incident or set of information is generally sufficient. An incident reporting template is available from OBA to facilitate reporting of incidents under the NIH Guidelines. The template may be found at:

[http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/ibc/FAQs/Incident\\_Reporting\\_Template.doc](http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/ibc/FAQs/Incident_Reporting_Template.doc).

Completed reports may be sent to OSP via email at [NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov](mailto:NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov).

### C. How to Report Incidents Involving Select Agents

Report to the Biosafety Specialist if the incident occurred in a UW facility. UW Responsible Official for Select Agents will report to the select agent program at either CDC or APHIS depending on the agent involved.

### D. How to Report an Agricultural or animal emergency

The State Veterinarian must be notified. Call the Biosafety Specialist who will ensure reporting of the situation to State Veterinarian, other State and Federal agencies as appropriate.

#### E. How to Report Incidents of Possible Criminal Nature

Call the UW Police Department. If a federal crime may be involved, the FBI will be informed by the UW Police Department or the Biosafety Specialist.

#### F. Reporting Requirements for Large Animal with Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules

When a large animal such as livestock or other animals covered by the *NIH Guidelines Appendix Q* containing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules or a recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecule-derived organism is euthanized or dies, the carcass shall be disposed of to avoid its use as food for human beings or animals unless food use is specifically authorized by an appropriate Federal agency.

Appendix Q-I-B-2. requires a permanent record to be maintained of the experimental use and disposal of each animal or group of animals. Contact the Biosafety Specialist to maintain a permanent record.

### **Appendix A: Contact Information**

Emergency: 911

University of Wyoming:

UW Police Department, non-emergency: 307-766-5179

UW Safety Office: 307-766-3277

UW Risk Management Office: 307-766-5767.

UW Regulated Materials Management Center (RMMC): 307-766-3698

UW Biosafety Specialist 307-766-2723

UW Institutional Biosafety Committee: <http://www.uwyo.edu/risk/safety/biological/ibc.html>

University Operations Service Desk: 766-6225

Medical:

Occupational health services by Grand Avenue Urgent Care: 307-760-8602

Iverson Memorial Hospital Emergency Services 307-755-4410

State Agencies:

Wyoming Public Health Laboratory: 307-777-7431, after hours 1-888-996-9104 ask to speak to someone in the lab.

State Veterinarian (c/o Wyoming Livestock Board, 2020 Carey Avenue - 4th Floor, Cheyenne WY 82002-0051, Phone: (307) 777-7515 - Option 1 Fax: (307) 777-6561; The current state veterinarian is Dr. Jim Logan. Email: [jlogan1@state.wy.us](mailto:jlogan1@state.wy.us) or [jim.logan@wyo.gov](mailto:jim.logan@wyo.gov)

Wyoming Department of Health, 2300 Capitol Avenue Room 117, Cheyenne, WY 82002, Phone 307-777-7656 and Fax 307-777-7439. Ask to talk to the ARO or RO. If after hours, call the 24/7 All Hazards Response line 1-888-996-910, and ask to speak to “someone in the lab.”

Federal Agencies:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Select Agent Program 404-718-2000, [lrsat@cdc.gov](mailto:lrsat@cdc.gov).

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Select Agent Program 301-851-3300 option 3, [AgSAS@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:AgSAS@aphis.usda.gov)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Cheyenne office 307-632-6224

National Institutes of Health Office of Biotechnology Activities (NIH OBA) <http://oba.od.nih.gov>

NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, Senior Outreach and Education Specialist: Kathryn Harris, Ph.D., Phone: 301-496-9838 Fax: 301-496-9839 Email: [harriskath@od.nih.gov](mailto:harriskath@od.nih.gov).

National Institutes of Health Office of Science Policy (OSP) Completed reports may be sent to OSP via email at [NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov](mailto:NIHGuidelines@od.nih.gov)

Thank you.