



Biological Materials Spill

Planning for spills

A simple spill kit should be readily available and should include the following items:



Chlorine bleach or other concentrated disinfectant



Package or roll of paper towels



Autoclavable bag



Latex or nitrile gloves



Forceps for picking up broken glass

Spill inside a biological safety cabinet



Leave the cabinet turned on



Put on gloves and a lab coat



Spray or wipe surfaces with a bleach solution



Wait at least 20 minutes



Soak up disinfectant and spill with paper towels



Autoclave all clean-up materials before disposal



Wash hands after clean-up



For assistance call 911

Small spill outside a biological safety cabinet

A spill can be labeled as spill if it is one that can be covered by a few paper towels.



Put on gloves and a lab coat



Cover spill with paper towels and disinfectant



Wait at least 20 minutes



Discard towels into a biohazard container



Re-wipe the spill area with disinfectant



Remove gloves and wash hands



For assistance call 911

A large spill outside a biological safety cabinet



Leave the room immediately



Post a sign on the door warning others of the spill



Remove any contaminated clothing and put it into a biohazard bag for later autoclaving



Wash hands and exposed skin



For assistance call 911

Biosafety Levels (BSL), agents, factors, and practices

BSL	AGENTS	FACTORS	PRACTICES
1	Agents that are not associated with disease in healthy human adults	None	Standard lab and management practices, including appropriate medical surveillance programs
2	Associated with human disease which is rarely serious and for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are often available	Not known to be transmittable by inhalation No aerosol production planned	BSL-1 practices plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access Biohazard warning signs Sharps precautions Biosafety manual Decontamination of all infectious wastes prior to disposal
2/3	Associated with human disease; special precautions required for some agents	BSL-2 facility with BSL-3 controls	BSL-2 practices plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled access Decontamination of clothing before laundering Equipment decontaminated before removed
3	Agents associated with serious or lethal human disease for which preventive or therapeutic interventions may be available (high individual risk but low community risk)	No or limited sharps allowed All work with infectious agent done in biosafety cabinet	BSL-2 practices plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled access Decontamination of clothing before laundering Equipment decontaminated before removed Disinfectant foot bath as needed
4	Agents that are likely to cause serious or lethal human disease for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are not usually available (high individual risk and high community risk)	Not allowed in VT labs	N/A