Bio Basics Fact Sheet: University of Minnesota Requirements for Working at Biosafety Level 1 (BSL 1)

Purpose:

To provide a concise check list of the procedures that research labs must follow in order to work at Biosafety Level 1. Biosafety Level 1 microorganisms are well-characterized biological agents not known to consistently cause disease in healthy adult humans.

Requirements:


- Wash hands after handling viable materials, after removing gloves, and before leaving the laboratory.
- Wear lab coat or other protective clothing when handling viable materials.
- Remove protective clothing before leaving lab areas. (All protective clothing must be either disposed of in the laboratory or laundered by the work unit, it should never be taken home.)
- Wear gloves whenever contact with microorganisms could be reasonably anticipated and/or whenever skin on hands is not intact – including if a rash is present.
- Wear protective eyewear for procedures in which possible splashes of microorganisms or other hazardous material is anticipated.
- Include methods to reduce or control the creation of splashes and aerosols in written protocols.
- Eating, drinking, smoking, handling contact lenses, and applying cosmetics are not permitted in labs.
- Persons who wear contact lenses in laboratories should also wear goggles or a face shield.
- Mouth pipetting is prohibited.
- Provide sharps containers within easy reach of work stations. Used needles must not be bent, sheared, broken, recapped, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand before disposal.
- Decontaminate work surfaces on completion of work and/or at the end of the day and after any spill or splash of viable material. (The disinfectant used should be known to be effective against the agent being used.)
- Cloth covered chairs are not allowed in labs.
- Decontaminate all microorganism cultures, stocks, and other regulated wastes before disposal.
- Protect vacuum lines with traps and filters.