

ASU FACT SHEET Experiments Involving Infectious Agents

Introduction

All work with infectious agents, Risk Groups 2, 3, and 4 as listed in Appendix B of the National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines) at ASU must be approved by the [Institutional Biosafety Committee](#) (IBC).

Applicable ASU Policies

[EHS 101](#) - Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention

[EHS 112](#) - Biosafety and the Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins

[EHS 406](#) - Shipping and Receiving Hazardous Materials

ASU Guidelines

[Biosafety Manual](#)

[Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#)

[Biological Hazardous Waste Handling Procedures](#)

Laboratory-specific biosafety standard operating procedures (SOPs); EH&S has a [template](#) that may be used to create SOPs.

Regulations

[Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories](#) (CDC/NIH)

[Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules](#) (NIH)

[Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens](#) (U.S. Department of Labor, 29 CFR § 1910.1030)

Summary of Requirements

IBC registration and approval of all work with infectious agents. Containment level for work with infectious agents is determined by IBC based on a risk assessment and recommendations in the BMBL.

Biosafety Training

ASU Biosafety Training must be taken prior to initial work with biohazardous materials and then at least every four years thereafter. More frequent training may be required if there are any significant findings during an inspection, after an accident or injury involving biohazards, when biosafety procedures or policies change, or after an adverse event in the laboratory. The ASU Biosafety Training is available through ASU Blackboard.

Reporting

The Principal Investigator must report all research-related accidents or illnesses to Biosafety & Biosecurity and the IBC. The IBC is responsible for reporting any significant problems with or violations of the NIH Guidelines and any significant research-related accidents or illnesses to NIH within 30 days unless the IBC determines that a report has already been filed by the Principal Investigator.

It is highly recommended that post-exposure treatment be started as soon as possible following an exposure incident. If an exposure occurs, the individual should immediately go to ASU Health Service. If ASU Health is closed, follow-up care may be obtained at the nearest emergency room and reported to ASU Health Service and Biosafety & Biosecurity the next business day.

Records

The ASU Office for Research Integrity and Assurance maintains records of registrations approved by the IBC. Training records must be kept for 3 years.