

Biological Spill Clean-up Procedures for BSL-1 & BSL-2 Labs

- Notify room occupants and post signs on entrances to alert others of a biohazard/biological spill that says “SPILL CLEAN-UP IN PROCESS. DO NOT ENTER.”
- Keep biological safety cabinets running (if present).
- Evacuate personnel from the room for 20-30 minutes to allow any aerosols to settle. Close lab doors.
- Don personal protective equipment (PPE) including: face protection (face shield or eye protection / surgical mask), disposable gloves, lab coat, and fluid-resistant shoes or cover with fluid-resistant booties. Do not step in spilled material. Wear fluid-resistant body splash protection if the spill is greater than a liter.
- If sharps are present, use tongs / forceps to lift the sharps into a sharps container before placing absorbent material over the spill. NEVER handle sharps with a gloved hand alone.
- Place paper towels over the spill and gently apply an appropriate disinfectant to the spill area. Avoid splashing the biological material while applying the disinfectant.
- Allow 20 minutes for the disinfectant to work. Note: large amounts of organic material in a spill (e.g., blood, tissue) may require a longer contact time before inactivation of the biological material.
- While waiting, surface decontaminate other items in the room (e.g. walls, work surfaces, cabinet fronts, lab equipment, door knobs, switches, telephones) that may have been splashed with the biological material or touched with contaminated gloved hands. Any item that cannot be decontaminated (e.g., cardboard, paper) should be disposed of as biomedical waste. Place non-disposable items (e.g., tongs, forceps) in an autoclavable biomedical waste bag for later autoclave sterilization or immerse the items in an appropriate disinfectant for 20 minutes before handling.
- After sufficient time has passed, soak up any excess disinfectant and discard along with any remaining organic matter / clean-up materials into a red biomedical waste bag. Perform a final cleaning of affected areas with disinfectant and/or water rinse.
- Carefully remove PPE, in an ordered fashion, taking precautions not to touch clean items, skin areas, or personal clothing with potentially contaminated PPE.
- Discard disposable PPE into the biomedical waste container and decontaminate reusable PPE with an appropriate disinfectant.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.