



BSL-2 Culture Room Top 10 Safety Practices

Remember these pointers when working in the culture room to ensure your safety, and to avoid spreading contamination from your procedures to other areas of the lab! For more assistance, contact VEHS Biosafety at 322-2057.

1	LAB COAT/SMOCK & GLOVES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a lab coat/smock and gloves that cover your wrist. Leave lab coat/smock in culture room to prevent transferring contaminants to other lab areasIf treating gloves with disinfectants, assure gloves are rated for use with the chemical. Double glove if possible, and change gloves frequently!	6	SOLID BIOWASTE COLLECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Collect biohazardous waste <u>inside</u> the BSC to prevent spread of contamination to the area outside the BSC.Segregate serological pipettes during collection to prevent bag puncture. Enclose and secure pipette “bundles” before placing in biohazardous waste.
2	BIO SAFETY CABINET (BSC) FUNCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use a tissue to check airflow at the sash and front grille. Air should visibly flow into the cabinet and grille.Close culture room door to minimize turbulence.Don't use open flames in BSC. Flames create turbulence, can damage the HEPA filter and are a fire and explosion hazard.	7	HOUSEKEEPING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use chairs constructed of cleanable materials that are in good repair. (No cloth. No rips/tears.)Minimize the amount of supplies stored in the culture room to reduce clutter and contamination hazards.Routinely disinfect common contact surfaces.
3	DISINFECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">For human cells, use a disinfectant that is EPA-registered for destruction of HIV & HBV. (Ethanol is not an EPA-registered disinfectant.)Surface-disinfect all items at the conclusion of procedures and before removal from the BSC. Clean and disinfect the BSC working surfaces and any visibly contaminated items per manufacturer's instructions.	8	SPILL PREVENTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Close all primary containers before moving them from one work area to another.When transporting outside of the culture room area, place primary containers in a rigid, cleanable, leak-proof container with a secured lid. Mark the container with a biohazard label and lab contact information if transporting human cells or infectious agents.
4	PASTEUR PIPETTE DISPOSAL <ul style="list-style-type: none">When used for cell culture manipulations, glass Pasteur pipettes need to be collected in a <u>sharps container</u> for treatment and disposal. Restrict the opening to the container when not in use.	9	HANDWASHING <ul style="list-style-type: none">Always wash your hands after removing your gloves and before leaving the culture room area.Use soap and water to wash hands thoroughly at the closest available sink.
5	LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL <ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep flask in BSC if possible. If storing outside BSC, keep it in a secondary container that will effectively contain a spill. Label this as biohazard.Use an in-line HEPA filter and/or overflow flask to prevent spillage and contamination of vacuum line.Discard liquid waste when half full, or at least weekly, whichever comes first.Wear a lab coat/smock, gloves and splash goggles when discharging waste to lab drain. Rinse sink thoroughly.	10	BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL EXPOSURE RESPONSE <p>If biological materials enter your body through: a cut or puncture sustained from a contaminated sharp object, contact with damaged skin or a splash to the eyes, nose or mouth, do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Proceed to the closest sink and flush the exposure site for 15 minutes.Report the exposure to your lab supervisor if they are available.Report to the Occupational Health Clinic for medical follow-up as soon as possible. If exposure involved human-derived materials, timely assessment is critical. Report to the Vanderbilt Adult Emergency Department if Occupational Health is closed.