

Safety Policy 805

Infection Control for Research Labs

POLICY: The following guidelines for infection control are written to inform and instruct all personnel-faculty, staff, volunteers, and students-who participate in research labs in the School of Communication Sciences & Disorders. Further information regarding infectious disease, disinfection, sterilization, regulatory agencies, and terminology can be found in the references listed at the end of these guidelines. Also, the Exposure Control Plan document and Infection Control Policies for the Research labs are located in the Dean's office. It is strongly recommended that all personnel be familiar with the information contained in these references.

PROCEDURE:

- I. In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030), this plan has been developed to minimize the risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens as well as other potentially infectious bodily substances. While direct exposure to blood is unlikely, this plan is written to protect employees, students, volunteers, and research participants from that possibility and to reduce the exposure of personnel to non-bloodborne pathogens, as well. If exposure occurs, please visit <http://www.memphis.edu/ehs/pdfs/bbpecattach3.pdf> to complete the exposure form.
- II. Each research lab will develop and maintain its own infection control and waste disposal procedure. The procedure will identify all reusable materials, all disposable materials, and chemicals in use in the laboratory. It will define the correct methods for cleaning, sanitization, and storage of reusable materials. It will define the correct methods for safe handling, disposal and storage for all disposable materials and chemicals.
- III. A copy of each lab's procedures, along with MSDS's and information about accessing safety stations in the Community Health Building (e.g. eye wash, safety showers) will be maintained in the lab as well as in the Dean's Suite.

- IV. Engineering and work practice controls will be utilized to minimize or eliminate potential exposure to employees and students. Where occupational exposure remains after the institution of these controls, personal protective equipment will be utilized.
- V. Environmental infection control and basic housekeeping practices will be implemented to protect research participants, students, volunteers, and employees. Potentially contaminated waste material will be disposed of in accordance with approved biohazardous waste procedures.
- VI. All hazardous chemicals will be identified, labeled, stored and disposed of in accordance with the MSDS for that product.
- VII. There will be an annual review of the infection control procedure for each lab with oversight by the Dean's Office. The infection control procedure for each lab will also be reviewed and updated each time an Academic Faculty member has a new grant or project that will be conducted in the laboratory.
- VIII. In compliance with UM1759, all employees, volunteers, and students who are working in research labs that produce biohazardous or hazardous waste will undergo Hazardous Waste Training on an annual basis.
- IX. In compliance with the School's Exposure Control Plan, all employees, volunteers, and students who are exposed or are likely to be exposed to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials (e.g. cerumen, saliva, urine, solid waste) will undergo Bloodborne Pathogen Training on an annual basis.