

CLEAN-UP OF MICROBIOLOGICAL SPILLS OUTSIDE OF A BIOSAFETY CABINET

Remove contaminated PPE

Exit the area

Stop others entering

Phone for help

Organise clean-up

No rush

Decontaminate the area

See back of poster for decontamination procedure

Exiting area of spill for spills > 50 mL or containing viral vectors or respiratory pathogens

1. Move away from the spill, warning others around you to exit the lab.
2. Remove potentially contaminated gown and shoes and place on the floor away from the spill as you exit.
3. Warn others to keep out of the area of the spill.
4. If you have been contaminated, wash exposed skin at a sink. Use eye-wash if the eyes or face have been exposed.
5. Leave the facility and place a sign saying 'DO NOT ENTER' on the door.
6. Notify your supervisor, the facility manager, and the IBC of the spill.
7. If you have not been injured or contaminated, remain on site to assist with the spill cleanup, otherwise ensure that your lab group and the facility managers are able to undertake cleanup by making them aware of the spill location and what has been spilt.
8. If spilt material has soaked through your clothing, take a shower in a regular shower (i.e., not an emergency shower) as soon as possible. Clothing should be soaked in disinfectant before laundering, or otherwise disposed as biohazard waste.
9. Stay out of the spill area for at least 30 minutes to allow aerosols and droplets to settle.

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Notification Procedures

Spill clean-up procedures (all microbiological and viral vector)

Notify others in the area to:

- Stay out of the area where the spill occurred for 30 min
- Help with spill clean-up

If first aid or medical assistance is required, alert emergency services and/or seek first-aid or medical assistance

Alert the Facility Manager.

Notify Security if the area needs to be locked down.

Undertake spill clean-up – see instructions on this poster.

Notify the Principal Investigator and your supervisor.

Notify the IBC as soon as possible after spill clean-up is complete
Ph. Amanda Hight 8313 6105 or Jess Hall 8313 3059

Submit report in UniSafe

1. Collect spill cleanup equipment
2. Make fresh solution of sodium hypochlorite solution (1% available chlorine*), or alternative approved disinfectant.
3. Before entering the spill area, put on a long-sleeved laboratory gown, disposable gloves, safety glasses and either a surgical face mask or a P2/N95 face mask (use the latter where the spill is material infectious via the respiratory route).
4. Assess the extent of contamination, including any areas where splashes or aerosols may have landed. Any nearby furniture or equipment should be considered as potentially contaminated.
5. Wet your absorbent material (e.g., paper towels) with disinfectant and place the absorbent material over the spill. Leave it to sit for at least 10 minutes.
6. After 10 minutes, remove any sharp objects in the spill area using forceps or tweezers and discard in a sharps container. Remove absorbent material and place in biohazard waste bag.
7. Starting from the outside edge of the spill, use a mop and bucket with disinfectant solution to mop towards the centre of the spill.
8. Dispose of mop water via the laboratory sink.
9. Make up fresh bucket of disinfectant and soak mop for 10 minutes. Dispose of mop water via laboratory sink.
10. Wet paper towel with disinfectant and wipe over surrounding furniture and areas that are likely to have been contaminated with splashes or aerosols.
11. Wipe all stainless-steel surfaces where sodium hypochlorite has been used with clean water or ethanol to prevent corrosion.
12. Dispose of all paper towel and other absorbent material into biohazard waste bag.
13. Remove gloves and wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser provided.
14. Remove face mask and dispose in biohazard waste.
15. Remove safety glasses and wipe with ethanol to decontaminate before storing.
16. Remove gown and autoclave it before sending to laundry services.
17. Spray the bottom of your shoes with disinfectant.
18. Seal biohazard waste bag and take to the clinical waste wheelie bin.
19. Wash hands with soap and water, or where handbasin is unavailable, use hand sanitiser.
20. Notify facility managers and IBC that spill cleanup is complete.
21. Submit an incident report in UniSafe.

*Important note: Sodium hypochlorite is the preferred disinfectant for spill cleanup but should not be used for spills that contain acids, ammonia, or formaldehyde. 1% available chlorine is NOT the same as 1% bleach. For bleach containing 12.5% available chlorine (typical lab strength, but check the bottle), a 1:11 dilution of bleach to water is sufficient.