

## Medical Surveillance for Columbia University Personnel Working in Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) Laboratories

You are receiving this document because your Supervisor/Principal Investigator/Department Administrator has determined that you will perform work in a Biosafety Level 3 or Animal Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory and has scheduled you for pre-placement medical surveillance.

### Applicability

The Workforce Health and Safety (WHS) clinic at CUIMC is the sole provider of medical services for the university's medical surveillance program for BSL-3 laboratories. Faculty, Staff and Students should receive medical surveillance at WHS.

### BSL-3 Facilities

- Center for Infection and Immunity (CII) – Alan Rosenfield Building 19th fl.
- Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center (ADARC) – Hammer Building 11th fl.
- Institute for Comparative Medicine (ICM) ABL-3 Animal Facility - Irving Cancer Research Center (ICRC) 10th fl.

Action is required on your part:

1. Engage the Biosafety Office ([biosafety@columbia.edu](mailto:biosafety@columbia.edu)). A biosafety officer will discuss with you the types of infectious material you intend to handle in the laboratory. Biosafety officers will provide the WHS clinic information on all new BSL-3/ABSL-3 users with their exposure risks (including animals/viral/other agents)
2. Enroll in the University's BSL-3 medical surveillance program. A pre-placement ("baseline") medical appointment must be completed at WHS prior to performing any work in the BSL-3 facility.
3. Get vaccinated. All Faculty, Staff and Students with reasonably anticipated exposure to known infectious agents for which vaccination is available (e.g. Mpox, Vaccinia, Varicella, Influenza, Rabies, etc) are offered the applicable vaccine. The vaccine is offered at no cost. You will be asked to sign an acceptance or declination of vaccination. If you decline vaccination may be required to have a baseline serum banked. You can change your mind about vaccination at any time.
4. Get fit tested for an N95 respirator. While most BSL-3 users wear PAPR, fit tested N95 wearers can expediently enter the facility to assist an incapacitated colleague. Users with facial hair are ineligible for N95 fit testing.
5. Ensure your work is registered with the Institutional Biosafety Committee. This is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI), however the PI should add your name to any new protocols described in a [RASCAL](#) Appendix A.
6. Get trained. Work in a BSL-3 laboratory setting requires an extensive training program that is coordinated through the PI, the BSL-3 facility manager and the biosafety office.
7. Seek immediate medical attention if a potential exposure to an infectious agent has occurred. During business hours report to WHS. After hours report to the NYPH emergency room. Notify your PI, the BSL-3 facility manager and the biosafety office and complete an accident report form.
8. Understand the symptomology associated with the infectious agent you are working with and seek medical attention if you exhibit any of the symptoms. Most lab acquired infections with cultured infectious agents have no attributable event. Seek immediate medical attention if a potential exposure to an infectious agent is suspected.
9. Annual Health Reviews (AHR) are required. Personnel undergo AHR during their assigned month (CII; August, ICM; August, ADARC; November). Personnel will complete the AHR online. All forms must be completed on the online portal <https://myapps.nyp.org/AHR/Account/Login>.

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Questions about the Columbia University Biological Safety Program can be addressed to Environmental Health and Safety: email [biosafety@columbia.edu](mailto:biosafety@columbia.edu).