

Small Biological Spill – General Clean Up Protocol

Small spill (RG1 material spill without splashing or agitation or <100mL volume and low concentration of RG2) outside of a Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC) – Reference SEM 20.10 – Microbiology Lab Safety:

- a) Assess the situation and personal contamination. Ensure risk of injury is controlled prior to initiating spill clean up.
- b) Remove any contaminated and potentially contaminated PPE and clothing.
- c) If sleeves are contaminated, lab coat or gown should be removed and placed in an autoclave bag for decontamination.
- d) Notify all staff in the immediate vicinity of the spill and have everyone leave the area for 30 minutes to allow for aerosol settling, using normal exit procedures.
- e) Exposed personnel should wash any potentially exposed skin areas thoroughly with soap and running water.
- f) Encourage bleeding if exposure involves a sharps injury or puncture and keep washing.
- g) Exposed persons should be referred to immediate medical attention.
- h) Inform the laboratory supervisor or responsible authority immediately.
- i) Post a sign forbidding entry to immediate spill area for the settling period.
- j) After 30 minutes has elapsed, don fresh, inspected, risk-appropriate PPE (double glove, closed toed shoes, laboratory coat, and eye protection minimum). LRA will determine if more is needed (e.g. a respirator).
- k) If the spill involves body fluids, blood, or human cells, ensure adequate skin coverage and wear a face mask in addition to the above listed PPE.
- l) Assemble the biological spill kit and bring it to the spill site.
- m) Gently cover the spill with paper towel or cloth to contain it.
- n) Gently pour an appropriate disinfectant on the paper towel or cloth, starting at the outer margin of the spill areas and working concentrically towards the center of the spill.
- o) Allow for appropriate contact time.
- p) Replace any PPE that was contaminated during initial clean up steps.
- q) After contact time has elapsed, carefully remove the towels/cloth and any debris. If there is broken glass, remove this using a dustpan and broom, forceps etc.
- r) Clean and disinfect the area and dispose of the contaminated materials in a leak-proof, puncture resistant waste disposal container. Repeat if necessary.
- s) Remove contaminated PPE and don clean PPE.
- t) After disinfection notify the laboratory supervisor and the BSO that the site has been decontaminated.