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## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)**

### **University of Pittsburgh Persons Conducting Biosafety Level 3 Research**

#### **1. SCOPE**

According to the CDC document, “Biosafety and Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL), 4<sup>th</sup> edition”, Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) is applicable to clinical, diagnostic, teaching research, or production facilities in which work is done with indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation route. The BMBL recommends the establishment of procedures whereby only persons who have been advised of the potential biohazard and who meet any specific entry requirements shall be permitted to enter a BSL 3 laboratory or animal room. This SOP was designed to establish a University program to summarize specific screening and/or immunizations required for personnel prior to working in a Biosafety Level 3 research environment at the University of Pittsburgh.

#### **2. PROCEDURE**

##### **2.1 AGENT**

This SOP is applied to any research environment where BSL-3 containment is required for the agents being handled. Agents that do not require BSL-3 containment, but are handled for added safety, may be exempt from the requirement of this SOP. The University Biosafety Officer makes final determination in such cases.

##### **2.2 EMPLOYEES AT RISK**

This SOP shall apply to all persons handling BSL-3 agents or laboratory animals infected with BSL-3 agents.

##### **2.3 REQUIRED PROCEDURES**

- 2.3.1 All principal investigators using BSL3 agents must be registered with the Biosafety Officer of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. The registration spreadsheet may be obtained from the website [www.ehs.pitt.edu](http://www.ehs.pitt.edu) or by calling the Biosafety Officer at 412-624-9505.
- 2.3.2 The principal investigator is responsible for maintaining a current list of all faculty staff, students and authorized visitors who have potential exposure to BSL3 agents when conducting research.
- 2.3.3 It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to validate that laboratory and support personnel receive appropriate training on potential hazards associated with the work involved and the necessary precautions to prevent exposure to BSL3 agents.
- 2.3.4 All individuals who have been determined by the principal investor to have potential exposure to BSL3 agents shall be required to complete a medical questionnaire developed by the University Employee Health Medical Director. For individuals hired after October 1, 2003, this questionnaire must be reviewed and approved by the University Employee Health Medical Director prior to working with a BSL 3 agent at the University of Pittsburgh.

- 2.3.5 The completed questionnaire will be returned to the Employee Health Service for evaluation by the University Employee Health Medical Director, who will determine the need for any additional medical screening, counseling or evaluation of the individual. The University Employee Health Medical Director will make the determination regarding the immune and health status of the individual, verify that any necessary immunizations have been attained, and provide any other medical screening deemed appropriate for conducting work with BSL3 agents at the University of Pittsburgh.
- 2.3.6 Individuals refusing to provide the necessary health information will be prohibited from performing tasks with BSL3 agents.
- 2.3.7 Individuals refusing subsequent immunizations or additional medical evaluation by the University Employee Health Medical Director will have their case reviewed by the principal investigator in conjunction with a representative from the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, the Office of General Counsel, Department of Human Resources, and the University Biohazards Committee to make a determination regarding subsequent sanctions or restrictions.

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Chairperson, University Biohazards Committee

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Date

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University Biosafety Officer

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Date