

Standard Operating Procedure for Spills Involving Biohazardous Agents

In the event of a spill:	Actions taken:
... in Biosafety Cabinet (BSC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don lab coat, gloves, and safety glasses or face shield (if not already wearing). 2. Place paper towels over spill. 3. Slowly pour undiluted bleach solution* or other approved disinfectant on the paper towels and let sit for at least 30 minutes. 4. Dispose of paper towels in biohazardous waste container. 5. Wipe all surfaces of BSC with water, then 70% ethanol to remove disinfectant residue and reduce corrosion. 6. Allow BSC to run for at least 10 minutes before resuming work or turning it off. 7. Dispose of paper towels and PPE in biohazardous waste container.
... in Lab (outside BSC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notify PI and others in the area that a spill has occurred. 2. Remove contaminated clothing and place in a biohazard bag for decontamination. 3. Wash any area of your skin that has contacted spilled material with soap and water for at least 5 minutes. If exposed in eyes, flush in eyewash station for at least 15 minutes. 4. Leave area for 30 minutes to let aerosols settle; while waiting call DPS 852-6111 and notify the Biosafety Officer (P: 502-418-2268; E: biosafe@louisville.edu) 5. Don lab coat, gloves and face shield. 6. Use forceps to remove any visibly contaminated items that can be autoclaved and reused and place in autoclave bag. 7. Place paper towels over spill. 8. Slowly pour undiluted bleach solution* or other approved disinfectant on the paper towels starting from the outside and let sit for at least 30 minutes. 9. Dispose of paper towels in biohazardous waste container. 10. Wipe all surfaces with water, then 70% ethanol. 11. Dispose of paper towels and PPE in biohazardous waste container.
... outside lab (in transit)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To prevent spills, all biohazardous materials should be transported in a well-sealed, biohazard-labeled, primary, waterproof container containing enough absorbent material to completely absorb contents. This primary container should be placed in a biohazard-labeled, unbreakable, lidded container, such as a cooler. 2. If a spill occurs outside of these containers, do not clean up without appropriate PPE. 3. Secure the area and call DPS 852-6111 and notify the Biosafety Officer (P: 502-418-2268; E: biosafe@louisville.edu). 4. Stand by during response and cleanup and provide assistance if necessary.

* Use caution when working with undiluted bleach. It is a strong corrosive material that can irritate eyes, skin, and the respiratory tract.