

Agent-Specific Information Sheet

**Agent Name: *Burkholderia mallei***

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1. What is the natural mode of transmission?  
*Contamination of skin abrasions or inhalation.*
2. What is the potential route of exposure in the lab?  
*Laboratory infections are via exposure to infectious aerosols and droplets, ingestion, parenteral inoculation and/or direct contact with infectious materials. Person-to-person transmission is unlikely and extremely rare.*
3. What is the infectious dose?  
*Not defined for humans. Risk factors such as diabetes and alcoholism are thought to reduce the infectious dose.*
4. Can this infection be transmitted directly from person-to-person?  
*Not a commonly recognized form of transmission but may occur.*
5. How long after exposure until the onset of symptoms?  
*Approximately 3-6 days depending on host susceptibility, route of infection, and dose. Incubation period is 1-21 days for cutaneous route or 10-14 days for inhalation route.*
6. What are the symptoms of infection?  
*Fever, chills, skin abscesses, cough and/or mucopurulent discharge leading to septicemia. Lab personnel should self-monitor for development of fever*
7. How stable is this organism in the environment?  
*Obligate mammalian pathogen (equine) that only briefly survives in the environment in mucous secretion.*
8. What are some effective inactivation methods for this agent?  
*Thermal: autoclaving or 100°C for 5 min*  
*Chemical: 2% Micro-Chem Plus® disinfectant, 2.5-4% paraformaldehyde, or 70% ethanol*
9. Is a vaccine available for this agent?  
*No*
10. Which antibiotics/antivirals are effective treatments for infection with this agent?  
*Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX), amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, ceftazidime, meropenem, imipenem, doxycycline. Treatment will last for 3-6 months in cases of exposure leading to disease.*

## Medical Response Protocols

### Known Exposure Event

(High or low risk of exposure is documented in an incident report, see below)

1. Request assistance from (a) others present in lab and/or (b) call via yellow call box in BSL3/ABSL3 or phone CPM Security 502-852-1181 M-F, 7AM-11PM. Between 11PM-7AM, M-F, and weekends 852-1181 transfers to ULPD-Comm, 502-852-6111. For emergency call 911.
  - a. Location in the facility (Room #).
  - b. Nature of injury and/or exposure (e.g. needlestick, left thumb, agent name OR sprained ankle, no agent).
  - c. Status: Acute, Severe, Minor/ambulatory, non-ambulatory.
  - d. Request call tree notification for a potential release/exposure:
    - i. Supervisor, **Warawa (502-381-2535)**.
    - ii. **RO, T. Hopp (281-782-4373)** or **ARO, C. Cowan (502-457-8649)**, **C. Hildreth (502-417-8406)**.
2. Wash the affected area with soap and water for 15 minutes if a puncture injury.
3. Follow normal decontamination and exit procedures for BSL3/ABSL3 and await further instruction in the anteroom:
  - a. Doff potentially contaminated scrubs and undergarments (collect for autoclaving).
  - b. Don new scrubs.
4. Seek medical evaluation, **RO and Supervisor call for medical consult:**
  - a. High risk of exposure (E.g., Needle stick with agent or release of agent from primary containment with PPE failure)
    - **UofL Hospital Emergency Department: 502-562-3015 (24/7 Availability, main ER area)**.  
530 S Jackson St Louisville, KY 40202  
24/7 UofL Infectious Disease Consult: 1-800-717-6963.
    - Event based serology with follow-up as directed by the attending physician.
    - Alert to local and state public health authorities as required.
  - b. Low risk of exposure (E.g., release of agent from primary containment with functional PPE)
    - **UofL Campus Health Services: 502-852-6446 (answering service after business hours)**  
401 East Chestnut Street, Suite 110  
Louisville, KY 40202
    - i. Serology and/or prophylactic treatment may be directed by the attending physician.
5. Report the injury/exposure:
  - a. Supervisor **Warawa** completes First Report of Injury, IA-1 Form, <https://louisville.edu/riskmanagement/workerscomp>.
  - b. Notify CDC: **RO, T. Hopp (281-782-4373)** or **ARO, C. Cowan (502-457-8649)**, **C. Hildreth (502-417-8406)**.
    - i. RO initiates an internal and external incident report (e.g. CDC DSAT Form 3).
    - ii. An initial report (phone/email) must be made in 1 day and a formal written report in 7 days.

### Laboratory Worker Exhibiting Symptoms Without Known Exposure Event

(E.g., Fever and entry into a A/BSL3 with *B. mallei* in use within the last 14 days)

Consider the following:

1. Record body temperature for monitoring of fever in addition to other symptoms.
2. Alert supervisor, **Warawa (502-381-2535)**.
3. Alert **RO, T. Hopp (281-782-4373)** or **ARO, C. Cowan (502-457-8649)**, **C. Hildreth (502-417-8406)**.
4. In-home self-quarantine may be directed on a voluntary basis.
  - a. Consider if any household contacts are immunocompromised and respond accordingly.
5. The symptomatic individual shall document the following occupational activities.
  - a. Identity of infectious organism manipulated for the previous 21 days.
  - b. Entries into BSL3 or ABSL3 laboratories for the previous 21 days.
  - c. Experimental procedures conducted and equipment used.
  - d. Work performed by others in a shared laboratory.
  - e. Any possible event that may have resulted in exposure to viable infectious materials (e.g. breach in PPE)
  - f. Recent changes in health status (e.g., recently use of an immune suppressing medication)
6. The symptomatic individual shall document the following social history activities.
  - a. Personal contacts for the previous 21 days.
  - b. Public locations visited or use of public transportation in the previous 14 days.
  - c. History of recent travel.
7. Precautions to be followed by the symptomatic individual.
  - a. Limit skin-to-skin contact with others.
  - b. Wash hands frequently.
8. The RO and Supervisor may consult **Campus Health Services: 502-852-6446** or **UofL Infectious Disease ID) 1-800-717-6963** or **ID Physician Forest Arnold (502-649-7274)**
  - a. Serology and/or prophylactic treatment may be directed by the attending physician.
  - b. Diagnostic tests to confirm the causative agent of illness may be directed.
9. If it is probable or confirmed that the illness is due this agent, notifications will be made to the CDC, state health department, and local health department.