

**LSU Inter-Institutional Biological and  
Recombinant DNA Safety Committee (IBRDSC)**

**Policy: Occupational Health & Safety Program for Individuals working under BSL-3 containment with animals containing viable recombinant DNA organisms at LSU or the LSU AgCenter**

*Adopted April 26, 2012*

**Purpose:** To maintain a preventive health program for personnel involved in the care and handling of animals: to insure that an accurate assessment is made of the health status of each staff member at the time of hire, to ensure that staff are safeguarded against occupation-related disorders, and to ensure that emerging occupation-related health disorders are promptly diagnosed and corrected.

**Responsibility:** DLAM Administration

**Procedure:** DLAM has arranged for an Occupational Health Program (OHP) for all persons at risk of illness or injury as a result of working with animals or their wastes. This includes anyone whose job responsibilities bring them in contact with animals used in teaching and/or research. Investigators using animals are expected to assess the potential hazards of their proposed studies and recommend participation in the OHP to any employee determined to be at risk of illness or injury. This could include the scientific staff, student workers, and facility support personnel. The program is conducted by the Louisiana State University Student Health Center. Participation in Parts 1 and 2 of this program is confidential and voluntary with the following exception. Parts 1 and 2 are mandatory for all individuals working in the presence of viable recombinant DNA (rDNA) at BSL-3. Participation in Part 3 of this program is mandatory for personnel involved in the care and handling of animals. The Program consists of the following:

1. New Employees

Each participating new employee will complete a health questionnaire and present it to the Student Health Center physician at the time of the physical examination. Each new employee will receive a complete physical examination. Based on review of the health questionnaire and the physical examination, the Student Health Center physician will request appropriate diagnostic tests and/or immunizations.

For new employees who will be working with viable BSL-3 rDNA, a baseline serum sample will be provided for storage when applicable. The Student Health Center will establish and maintain a medical record for each employee, and will include in that record, a copy of the health questionnaire.

The Student Health Center physician will notify DLAM in writing of any precautions needed in the work assignments of each employee, based on findings from the health questionnaire, physical examination, or diagnostic tests. DLAM will notify the Principal Investigator responsible for the employee.

All information received from the Student Health Service will be considered confidential and will be secured in the individual employee's personnel file.

## 2. Continuing Employees

On a yearly basis, each participating employee will complete a health questionnaire and will mail it, in the envelope provided, to the LSU Student Health Center. The Student Health Center physician will review the health questionnaire and will determine which, if any, diagnostic tests, vaccinations, etc., are needed. The Student Health Center will notify the employee that such actions are needed.

A health questionnaire and physician review of the questionnaire must be completed before employees are allowed to work with viable rDNA at BSL-3. A baseline serum sample will be provided for storage when applicable.

For employees identified as working with viable rDNA at BSL-3 in the previous year, special attention will be devoted to factors and conditions of the BSL-3 biological agents in use in the previous year. A serum sample will be provided for surveillance purposes when applicable. The employee will schedule an appointment with the Student Health Center for the recommended procedures. The Student Health Center will perform needed procedures and the physician will notify DLAM in writing of any changes or precautions needed in the work assignments of each employee: based on findings from the health questionnaire, physical examination, or diagnostic tests.

## 3. All Employees

Any medical condition, including injuries, sustained while on the job will be reported to the employee's direct supervisor. The supervisor will determine whether the employee should report to the student health center for evaluation and treatment. Reporting to the student health center for

evaluation is mandatory for individuals identified as working with viable BSL-3 rDNA. Severe injuries may be referred to other nearby hospitals.

**For further information regarding this Occupational Health Program, please contact: Mrs. Dawn Best-Desjardins, Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine, 502 Veterinary Medicine Building, 225-578-9643, [dbest@vetmed.lsu.edu](mailto:dbest@vetmed.lsu.edu).**