# Illness Procedure for BSL3 Workers

**Title:** Illness Procedure for BSL3 Workers  
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Environmental Health Services (EHS) Director Approval: James Graham  
**Date:** 12/13/12  
**Biosafety Approval:** Dr. Robert P. Ellis, Biosafety Officer, EHS  
**Date:** 12/11/12  
**Risk Management Approval:** Kenda Weigang, Sally Alexander, EHS  
**Date:** 12/12/12  
**CSU Institutional Biosafety Committee Approval**  
**Date:** 03/13/13

## Purpose

To provide workers with appropriate information to use during a potential or known exposure and to provide information to help prevent non work related illnesses from being spread within the BSL3 working environment.

## Safety Considerations

- **Note that the most current version of this document can be found online at:**  
  - [http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/Home.aspx](http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/Home.aspx), under the bar labeled “BSL3 Illness Procedures, Info, and Emergency Response Packets.”

- Workers Compensation statutes change frequently. Every effort has been made to update this document accordingly; however, Risk Management is the source for the most current Workers Compensation protocols: 970-491-4832.

- Personal health status may impact an individual’s susceptibility to infection, as well as the ability to receive immunizations or prophylactic interventions.  
  - Laboratory personnel that are immune-compromised individuals and women of child-bearing age are encouraged to self-identify to the institution’s occupational health provider or consult with their primary care physician for appropriate counseling and guidance.

- Annual flu immunization is strongly advised since many of the biological agents worked with cause symptoms similar to influenza virus symptoms.

- Inform your primary care physician about pathogens you are working with by providing them with pathogen fact sheets. The fact sheets can be found online [http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/Home.aspx](http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/Home.aspx), under the bar labeled “BSL3 Illness Procedures, Info, and Emergency Response Packets.”

- Know the symptoms associated with the pathogens that you are potentially exposed to, and exercise diligence in strict adherence to biosafety practices and principles.

- Know your baseline body temperature.

## General Requirements

- Fill out the Occupational Health Risk Assessment form ANNUALLY, and maintain enrollment in all relevant Occupational Health medical surveillance programs as directed:  
  - [https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis86/WOHSP/RiskAssessment/add/AddRisAssessment.aspx](https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis86/WOHSP/RiskAssessment/add/AddRisAssessment.aspx)

- **Do not enter the BSL3 facility** if you have a fever or are showing symptoms of an illness.

- Report all WORK RELATED illnesses or injuries IMMEDIATELY:  
  - To your supervisor  
  - To Biosafety (can be done by supervisor)  
  - To Workers’ Compensation:  
    - [https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis86/WWorkComp/compData/Add/AddClaimtest.aspx](https://wsnet.colostate.edu/cwis86/WWorkComp/compData/Add/AddClaimtest.aspx)
• **CSU AUTHORIZED TREATING PHYSICIANS**
  
  o Medical attention from a CSU Authorized Treating Physician should be sought if you are injured at work or when:
    
    ▪ You have a known exposure to, or an injury involving tuberculosis or other mycobacteria (Due to the long incubation time for infection, an emergency room visit is not warranted unless it is after business hours. Resources for treatment are readily available with all Authorized Treating Physicians).
    
    ▪ You have symptoms characteristic of diseases due to pathogens that you have worked with or are used in your lab area.
    
    ▪ You develop a fever (2 degrees above your normal body temperature) within 5 days of being in the BSL3 barrier, and fever is a symptom associated with the pathogen/s that you work with.
    
    ▪ CSU Authorized Treating Physicians:
      
      o Occupational Health Services, 4674 Snow Mesa Drive, Suite 200, Fort Collins; 297-6566
      o Workwell, 1600 Specht Point Road, Suite 115, Fort Collins, 970-672-5100
      o Workwell, 1608 Topaz Drive, Loveland, 970-593-0125
      o Additional CSU Authorized Treating Physicians are listed at: http://www. ehs.colostate.edu/WWorkComp/Home.aspx.
    
  o Your health is a priority and medical attention should be sought if you are concerned that you have a work related illness/injury:
    
    • Go to a CSU Authorized Treating Physician whenever possible, as initial visit costs will be covered even if it is determined that your illness is not work related. However, if you go to an ER or Urgent Care, you and/or your medical insurance carrier are responsible for illness/injuries that are not work related and not compensable under Workers’ Compensation.
    
    • It is CSU’s intention that medical attention is sought appropriately for potential work related illnesses. As such, CSU’s Occupational Health Program will use its discretion to cover certain out of pocket costs for ER or Urgent Care services not covered under Colorado Workers’ Compensation Statutes; as long as the requirements of this procedure have been properly followed. In general, such coverage will not exceed $2,000.

• **EMERGENCY ROOM OR URGENT CARE**
  
  o Due to limitations in Worker’s Compensation coverage for Emergency Room or Urgent Care visits, seek an Authorized Treating Physician whenever possible. **THE EMERGENCY ROOM OR URGENT CARE SHOULD ONLY BE VISITED ONLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES** (and followed up with Workers’ Compensation, Biosafety, etc. as indicated below):
    
    • You have had a known exposure, or strong likelihood of biological exposure to a BSL3 organism. e.g. PPE failure, splash, or other potential exposure. (This does not apply to mycobacteria, see note above).
    
    • For major injuries sustained in the workplace.
    
    • IT IS AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS and you develop a fever (2 degrees above your normal body temperature) within 5 days of being in the BSL3 barrier, and fever is a symptom associated with the pathogen/s that you work with.

**PROTOCOL FOR INJURIES, AND POTENTIAL/ KNOWN EXPOSURES**

1. Notify Biosafety (970-491-0270) and/or Occupational Health Program Coordinator (970-420-8172) and let them know where you intend to go, and if you need transportation.

  • Your Principal Investigator/Supervisor must also be notified.
2. If you are on-site (at the BSL3 barrier):
   • Obtain an Emergency Response Packet.
     o Packet is located next to each personnel locator board.
     o Maps and directions to each facility are in the Emergency Response Packet.
   • Take the packet with you.

3. If you are off site:
   • Print or direct medical provider to relevant Emergency Response Packet information from http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/Home.aspx, under the bar labeled “BSL3 Illness Procedures, Information, and “Emergency Response Packets.”

4. If needed, have another individual (Biosafety/Operations are available) drive you to the provider’s office.

5. Follow directions and maps in Emergency Response Packet to the appropriate health care provider.

6. Upon arrival, walk directly to main desk and:
   • State who you are, where you work and what you were working with.
   • Provide caregiver with fact sheets from the Emergency Response packet or direct them to the information online, at: http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/Home.aspx, under the bar labeled “BSL3 Illness Procedures, Information, and “Emergency Response Packets.”

7. DO NOT INTERACT WITH OTHER PATIENTS!
   • Make sure the staff knows that you need to be kept separated from others.

8. Complete appropriate reports/follow up as soon as possible (indicated in Follow Up section below).

FOLLOW UP
1. Complete a Workers’ Compensation Form within 4 days (or as soon as possible) if you believe the injury or illness is work related. If you are unable to fill out the form, please contact your supervisor for assistance.
   • All claims are subject to review for compensability under current Colorado Workers’ Compensation statutes.

2. Complete a Biosafety Incident Report Form within 24 hours. If you are unable to fill out the form, please contact your supervisor for assistance. This form is not related to Workers’ Compensation: http://www.ehs.colostate.edu/WBiosafety/PDF/IncidentReportForm.pdf

3. Critical Follow up after going to the Emergency Room (ER) or to Urgent Care:
   a. If you are directed to follow up with a CSU Authorized Treating Physician, you MUST do so the NEXT business day.
   b. It is your responsibility to provide the ER or Urgent Care with your Workers’ Compensation Claim Number and Billing information:
      
      P.O. Box 4998
      Greenwood Village, CO 80155
      Phone: 303-804-2000; Fax: 303-804-2005; Toll-Free: 888-428-467

4. Follow up as directed by the health care provider.

Definitions
• Fever: An increase in normal body temperature specific to the individual - know your baseline temperature.

• Major Injuries: The interpretation of this term is circumstantial and dependent upon the perspective of the injured party. Major injuries could include, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED to: Any life-threatening condition, severe bleeding or burns; head trauma; any injury leading to loss of consciousness; amputation; sudden loss of, or
blurred vision; difficulty breathing; sudden swelling; or acute illness or loss of consciousness arising from exposure or absorption of any substance (by inhalation, ingestion, or through the skin). If your injury is life threatening, go to the nearest Emergency Room.