

Biological Spill Clean-up Procedure

1. Immediately inform others working in the area of potentially infectious aerosols or other hazards. Clear the area if risk is unacceptable for workers to continue while spill is managed. Post spill warning sign. Report to Lab manager, supervisor, and safety officer. Clean-up should be initiated only by trained personnel who are properly donned with appropriate personal protective equipment.
2. If aerosols are possible, allow aerosols to be eliminated by air handling system by waiting 30 minutes before re-entering spill area to begin clean-up. If spill risk did not result in this step, proceed to step number 3.
3. Obtain spill kit.
4. Pour disinfectant into bucket after preparation according to manufacturer recommendation.
5. Immerse towels into bucket of disinfectant.
6. Place disinfectant soaked towels over spill.
7. Allow appropriate contact time (usually a minimum of 20 minutes, but follow disinfectant manufacturer's directions).
8. If sharps are present under the towels, use long handled tongs to lift back the towel and transfer any broken glass/sharps, if present, to sharps containers. If not, skip to step number 9.
9. Transfer wet towels to large autoclave bag using long handled tongs.
10. Repeat the process of disinfection with cloth or paper towels as necessary.
11. Use the mop to wipe up excess disinfectant from surface, working from edges toward center of spill site.
12. Clean and decontaminate surrounding floor and work surface areas where splashes may have settled from the spill.
13. Don new pair of gloves and place all discard material in autoclave bag.
14. Close autoclave bag/s and place in appropriate secondary container ready for autoclave or for external vendor pick-up.
15. Be sure you notify and give a report to those in the vicinity during the spill and who managed the spill.
16. Depending on the nature of the spill, notification and a trip to occupational health may be required.
17. Perform a risk assessment and document the incident in order to allow the process to be examined for future efforts of prevention.