

	<b>MULTIPURPOSE laboratory II - Guidelines for Emergency Situations</b>	Effective	December 13, 2005
		Originator:	Beth Smith
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		Updated by:	Beth Smith

## Multipurpose Laboratory II - Guidelines for Emergency Situations

### Purpose:

- To outline possible hazardous situations arising from the handling and disposal of biological materials use in the teaching of the Bacteriology and Parasitology laboratories.
- To provide suggestions on practices meant to prevent accidental exposure of students and staff to biologic materials.
- To provide specific instructions regarding proper disposal of biologic materials, cleanup after accidental spills, sterilization of contaminated areas and disposal of glass and needles used in laboratory exercises.

### Scope

To all faculty, staff and students of the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

### Procedure:

#### I. Possible Hazardous Situations in teaching Bacteriology and Parasitology laboratories.

- Biological material used in the teaching Parasitology laboratories originates from domestic animals. Many parasitic agents with zoonotic potential are diagnosed in domestic animals. While, the possibility of exposure to zoonotic agents or hazardous biologics is minimal, the materials used in these courses can pose a public health threat. In addition, there is always some potential for accidents to occur when using bacterial cultures or fecal material and blood from domestic animals in laboratory exercises. The use of protective clothing (e.g. laboratory coats, scrubs etc.) is required. The use of gloves is required for some Parasitology laboratories (e.g. when working with dog and cat feces).
- Injuries from cut glass or needles are also possible. Proper techniques and proper disposal of sharp materials is the best means to curb such problems.
- Danger from spilling hazardous chemicals is minimal in this laboratory as hazardous reagents are used but in a limited manner in the teaching area.

## **II. Measures to prevent exposures to hazardous materials and accidental injuries.**

Student instructions by way of an introductory lecture should be provided by each course instructor.

Sample collection and storage will be done by laboratory assistants and they will see to proper storage of biologic materials.

Cleaning bench tops at microscopes and elsewhere after use is mandatory when biologic materials are used. Cleaning solutions, disinfectants and paper towels should be provided in a convenient location. This includes soap for cleaning hands.

It is required that glass objects and needles be placed in sharps containers for disposal.

Spills will be reported and cleaned up by the proper personnel, not necessarily the students.

Hazardous chemicals are not commonly used in the MultilabII environment, but may be used on occasion.

An eyewash station should be installed in the laboratory as standard policy.