



**The University of Western Ontario**

**Biotron Containment Level 3(CL-3) Laboratory**

**Standard Operating Procedures  
and  
Users Manual**

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**Biotron Experimental Climate Change Research Centre**

The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, N6A 3K7, Canada

In partnership with The University of Guelph and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

T: (519) 661-2111 x 83777

E: [info@biotron.uwo.ca](mailto:info@biotron.uwo.ca)

Web: [www.thebiotron.ca](http://www.thebiotron.ca)

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## 11. Medical Emergency Procedures

In any emergency situation, call **911**.

**Note: Personnel safety overrides other procedures in a life-threatening emergency.**

### 11.1 Accidental Exposure to Infectious Agents

The procedure described below must be followed in case of accidental exposure to infectious/pathogenic material in the CL-3 laboratory. Any potential exposure to infectious/pathogenic material in the CL-3 facility requires immediate treatment followed by counseling for the injured person and possible administration of drug therapy in order to decrease the risk of infection. The latest evidence indicates that prophylactic drug treatments (if required) should be given as soon as possible and at least within 2 hours of exposure to be maximally effective. **Workplace Health (located in UCC Room 25 - telephone ext 82047)** will serve as the emergency treating department for all CL-3 workers regardless of their employer. The following procedure must be followed **at once** by all workers in the CL-3 facility in the event of an exposure to infectious/pathogenic material in the CL-3 facility.

Any of the following situations will be considered as a potential exposure:

- a. Needle stick, cut or puncture wound from items contaminated or possibly contaminated with infectious materials. If any doubt exists as to whether the skin was broken, treat as for an exposure until counseling has been obtained from Occupational Health Physician (in UCC 25).
- b. Bite or scratch from experimentally infected insect/animal.
- c. Splash of infectious/pathogenic liquids to eyes, mouth or nose or onto unprotected skin.
- d. Accidental penetration of infectious material through defects or tears in disposable gloves such that skin contamination has (or may have) occurred. If any doubt exists as to whether the skin or other exposed body surface e.g. mucous membrane has been contaminated, treat as for an exposure until counseling has been obtained from the Occupational Health Physician.

### 11.2 First Aid

- a. Wash the exposed area immediately for 5 minutes with soap and water. Cleanse puncture wounds or cuts as thoroughly as possible. Use the scrub brushes provided at each sink.
- b. If skin penetration has occurred encourage bleeding by massaging the surrounding area to express blood.
- c. If wound/skin contamination is on the hand, remove the gloves on the affected hand. Remove outer glove on unaffected hand or hands and re-glove for administration of first-aid treatment.

- d. First aid boxes are located in rooms 20H-1, 20J-1 and 20G-1. These contain band aids and gauze to stop bleeding.
- e. For mouth or eye splashes, rinse in eye wash or sink for 10 minutes.
- f. Contact Workplace Health as soon as possible for follow up (UCC Room 25 -x 82047).
- g. Leave facility using normal procedures and go to Workplace Health immediately if necessary.
- h. Follow Western's Safety Procedure for Injury& Illness Reporting, located at:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/docandform/docs/ohs/injury\\_illness\\_reporting\\_proc.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/docandform/docs/ohs/injury_illness_reporting_proc.pdf)

### **11.3 Report(s) for Accidents/Incidents in the CL-3 laboratory**

Follow Western's Safety Procedure for Injury& Illness Reporting, located at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/docandform/docs/ohs/injury\\_illness\\_reporting\\_proc.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/docandform/docs/ohs/injury_illness_reporting_proc.pdf)

The PI/Supervisor must complete the Accident / Incident Report Form ("AIIR") and return it to OH&S within 48 hours. This can be found on line at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/docandform/forms/ohs/aiir.pdf>

The PI/Supervisor, the injured person and the BSO will jointly conduct an accident investigation and an Investigation Report will be prepared. Recommendations for accident prevention must be made if possible.

If the injured worker is employed by an affiliated institution, the AIIR for that institution must also be completed and the Safety Officer for that institution will also take part in the accident investigation.

After First Aid has been administered call Workplace Health (x 82047) and inform them of the incident and ask to see the Occupational Health Physician immediately for counseling.

Notify the PI/Supervisor and BSO as soon as possible after any incident which may have resulted in a personal exposure to infectious agent.

### **11.4 Follow-up**

Following a reported incident or accident, the investigation and risk assessment reports must be reported to Biotron management, and all CL-3 staff. All possible steps will be taken to address any issues arising to prevent similar or related incidents or accidents.