

## Biological Spills

Last updated: [06/20/2019](#)

This policy is mandatory for any technician, visiting scholar, undergraduate, summer and graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, research associate, assistant scientist or any other Netz Lab member working with biological samples. You must read and sign this document before beginning an experiment with a biological sample.

**In the event of a biological spill, follow the below steps to ensure your safety and the safety of others.**

### Cleanup Supplies

You should at all times be wearing your lab coat, goggles and gloves when working with biological materials. In addition to these protections, you should know where to quickly obtain these spill cleanup supplies: goggles, shoe covers, bleach, paper towels, biohazard waste box, and sharps container.

### Initial response

If a spill occurs, you need to alert everyone in the area and evacuate that room. If necessary, remove any contaminated clothing articles and leave them in the room. Once out, close the door and post a DO NOT ENTER sign where it is clearly visible. Then assess the severity of the situation, make a 10% bleach solution, gather additional cleanup supplies and, if needed, additional people to aid with the cleanup process.

### Cleanup Procedure

Before re-entering the room, be sure to put on a lab coat, gloves, and shoe covers (if applicable). Working from the outside-in, cover the spill with paper towels, and then saturate the paper towels with 10% bleach solution. After waiting 20 minutes for the biological sample to be killed, wipe the area with the paper towels and discard all materials into the biohazard waste box. If there are sharps or broken glass, pick up with a pair of forceps/tweezers, **NOT** your hands. Repeat this procedure a second time to ensure sufficient disinfection of the area. Finally, discard your gloves and shoe covers into the biohazard waste box and seal it shut.

### Acknowledgment of Standard Operating Procedure Guidelines and Policies

I certify that I have read and understood the contents of this document and that I will abide by all the policies and guidelines described in it.

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Member Name

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Signature

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Date