

<b>Core Laboratory General Binder Core Laboratory</b>	<b>Document No. CORE 12000 Q Page 1 of 4</b>
<b>Biosafety</b>	<b>Origination: 01/2014 Version: 0</b>

<b>Policy Statement</b>	Biosafety is a term used to assess the occupational risk associated with exposure to infectious agents.
<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure the prevention, containment and management of laboratory acquired infections in the Core Laboratory.
<b>Scope</b>	This policy applies to all practices completed by associates in the Core Laboratory.
<b>Responsibility</b>	It is the responsibility of all associates in the Core Laboratory to help ensure the safety of their work environment and Infection prevention and control.

### **Biosafety Level**

Biosafety Levels (BSL) are guidelines that describe appropriate containment equipment, facilities and procedures for use by laboratory associates. Each BSL is based on the increased risk associated with the pathogenicity of the microorganisms encountered. The Core Laboratory of Saint Agnes Hospital follows the principles of Biosafety Level 2. (See the Definition section for complete details.) All specimens should be received in tightly sealed containers and caps should be replaced properly when finished with the specimen. There is a Class II biological safety cabinet for processing specimens, as applicable. Personal protective clothing consists of gloves and disposable lab coats which should be worn by all associates when handling specimens. There is an eyewash and shower available in the area for emergency situations. N95 respirators and safety goggles are also available.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting of Work Areas**

- Keep all work areas uncluttered.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces with Dispatch and allow solution to air dry.
  - Before and at the end of the work shift
  - Upon completion of a procedure
  - When surfaces become overtly contaminated
- Clean and disinfect centrifuges with Dispatch weekly.
- Clean microscope Ocular and Objectives daily with lint-free lens paper and lens cleaner.

### **Waste Disposal**

Consider all materials to be discarded as potentially pathogenic. Discard all potentially infectious material in the red biohazard trash bags.

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## Spills

Care should be taken to prevent spills. If contaminated material is spilled, pour Dispatch solution over the contaminated area, cover with paper towels and to allow sit for 15 minutes. Wearing disposable gloves pick up materials with dry paper towels and place in the red biohazard bag trash.

## Biological Safety Cabinet Usage

To start the Biological Safety Cabinet, raise the sash until reaching the sash tactile position indicator. Turn the blower switch to the "On" position. The audible and visual alarms will self test and be activated for approximately three seconds. Ensure that there are no obstructions in the front, side and rear air grills. Allow cabinet to operate unobstructed for at least 15 minutes. Do not overload the cabinet with items. Keep all materials at least 4 inches inside of the sash. Perform all contaminated operations as far to the rear of the work area as possible. If there is a spill or splatter during use, decontaminate all items before removal. Thoroughly disinfect the working area of the cabinet while it is still in operation. Upon completion of work, the cabinet should be allowed to operate for two to three minutes undisturbed, to purge contaminants from the working area.

## Biological Safety Cabinet Maintenance

All Biological Safety Cabinet Maintenance is documented on the *CORE 6600 Fa GeneXpert Maintenance Log*.

### Daily:

- Allow blowers to operate 15 minutes before use.
- Check Airflow.
  - Mag Gauge: 0.8 – 1.1 inches
- Do not block the vent screens at the sides and back.
- Clean and disinfect work surface with 10% bleach and 70% isopropanol and allow solution to air dry.
- UV daily for at least 15 minutes.

### Weekly:

- Clean and disinfect the inside of the cabinet and work surface with 10% bleach and 70% isopropanol and allow solution to air dry.
- Clean the UV bulb with an alcohol prep.

### Monthly:

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- Disinfect and lift the work surface.
- Disinfect the lower plenum surface.
- Inspect the towel catch for retained materials.

Biannually:

- Inspection and recertified by a qualified certification technician.

As Needed:

- Replace the UV lamp.
- Replace the fluorescent lamp.

### Definitions

- *Biosafety Level 1*: recommended for work with microorganisms not known to cause disease in healthy adults.
  - Restrict access to authorized personnel.
  - Make sinks for hand washing readily available.
  - Make eyewash stations readily accessible.
  - Make appropriate PPE available and ensure use.
  - Ensure that laboratory bench tops are impervious to liquids and resistant to chemicals.
  - Ensure that laboratory surfaces and equipment are easily cleaned and disinfected and that these procedures are done on a regular basis or whenever the surfaces or equipment is contaminated.
  - Decontaminate solid waste within the laboratory or package the waste to be transported offsite.
- *Biosafety Level 2*: recommended for microorganisms associated with human disease but not transmitted by aerosols.
  - Follow BSL 1 practices plus the following.
  - Display universal biohazard signs outside of the laboratory.
  - Perform specimen processing in a biological safety cabinet.
  - Perform centrifugation of mycobacteriologic specimens by using centrifuge safety cups.
  - Ensure that an autoclave or other decontamination equipment is available for treatment of infectious waste.
  - Use the appropriate PPE.
  - Place all sharps carefully in conveniently located, puncture-resistant containers.

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- Trained associates must observe good microbiological practices and techniques.
- *Class 2 Biological Safety Cabinet*: a primary barrier, which offers significant levels of protection to laboratory personnel and to the environment when used with good microbiological techniques. This Class II cabinet also provides protection from external contamination of the materials being manipulated inside the cabinet.

### **Related Documents**

CORE 6600 Fa GeneXpert Maintenance Log  
MICR 6150 R Bioterrorism or Select Agents  
SYS IPC11 Blood Pathogens Exposure Control Plan