3rd Annual National Biosafety Month

From: Colin Parrish, Keith Perry and Esther Angert, Co-Chairs, Cornell Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and Alexis Brubaker, Institutional Biosafety Officer

The National Institutes of Health have declared October “National Biosafety Month.”

We request you take a few minutes to review the lab safety practices in your labs, explore the safety information resources available to you, and take any steps necessary to minimize the potential for pathogen exposure and potential harm in your work environment.

To help you in these efforts, we will send you two short emails, this week focusing on informational resources on the following important topics.

But first, some biosafety humor…

"Why did the bacteria fail the math test?
The bacteria thought multiplication was the same as division."

Take a look at these short videos and informational pieces:

Lab Safety practices and reporting injuries:
- Needle Injury Prevention and Sharps handling tip sheet
- Cell phone Use in the lab – a great video to show your team
- Eating and drinking in the lab – a reminder of dos and don'ts
- Protecting yourself from exposure – Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Who should be in the lab and Working Alone – reminders on dos and don'ts
- Exposure to a pathogen – What to do - What is reportable - Immediate Action
  Link to EHS online report form
- Biosafety Cabinets: How It Works to Protect You
- Cornell Safety videos are available on CU EHS Your Tube Channel

Waste Removal and Lab Recycling
- Discarding Biohazardous Waste
  CU Laboratory Waste Disposal Guide (Departments outside of the College of Veterinary Medicine)
  CU College of Veterinary Medicine - Medical Waste Disposal Guide
- Recycling Lab Materials Laboratory materials cannot be recycled; refer to this policy for exceptions to this rule CU Recycle policy for Laboratory and Medical Spaces

Procurement Contracts for Your Lab
- Laundry Service – New Negotiated Contract for Lab Coats – (Procurement Lab Coats)
- Biosafety Cabinet Certification – Cornell offers a negotiated contract for required annual certification of biosafety cabinets by B&V Testing. Review this eShop tutorial to request this services.

Biosafety professionals in Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) AskEHS@cornell.edu and the IBC CU IBC@cornell.edu are always happy to talk with you or to answer any questions about biosafety practices in your lab. Contact them early when you are thinking about a project and anytime during the project for biosafety guidance or resources.