

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

LBNL IMMUNIZATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR INDIVIDUALS WORKING WITH BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIALS OR BIOLOGICAL ETIOLOGIC AGENTS (EXCLUDING BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS)	Document No.	HSCS-2008-002
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	Approval:	
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1.0 PURPOSE:

This procedure establishes guidelines for the use of vaccines to prevent work-related infections for workers using biohazardous materials or biological etiologic agents in their work at LBNL. The goal is to ensure the appropriate use of vaccines when indicated in individual workers to prevent disease. The process begins with the assessment of the risk of infection; continues with the evaluation of vaccine effectiveness and availability, its risks and benefits; and ends with the vaccine either being offered or not being offered to individual employees.

Note: Bloodborne pathogens policy is covered elsewhere due to different regulatory requirements. Immunizations are also offered under that policy.

2.0 REVISION HISTORY:

Date	Revision No.	Change	Reference Section(s)
7/22/08	1.0	New Procedure Drafted	Not Applicable

3.0 PERSONS AFFECTED:

- 3.1. Workers at risk of infection with biological etiologic agents:
- 3.2. LBNL Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- 3.3. LBNL Biosafety Officer
- 3.4. LBNL Site Occupational Medical Director (SOMD)
- 3.5. Work Leads or Safety Line Managers leading research with biological etiologic agents, or using environmental samples reasonably suspected of containing biological etiologic agents.

4.0 POLICY:

The policy of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is to encourage and promote the safe use of vaccines to prevent occupational infections. The goal is to increase the safety of research with biological etiologic agents.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1. Biological etiologic agent: a microorganism, virus, or toxic protein (biologic toxin or prion) known to cause human disease.
- 5.2. Biohazardous Material: Environmental materials reasonably suspected of containing biological etiologic agent(s).
- 5.3. Workers at risk of infection with biological etiologic agents: LBNL employees, guests, or students working with biological etiologic agents in a manner that may expose them to the risk of infection from the organism/protein.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1. Work Leads or Safety Line Managers leading research using biological etiologic agents, shall:
 - 6.1.1. Ensure that research with biohazardous materials or agents is documented, reviewed, and preauthorized by the IBC prior to beginning work.
 - 6.1.2. Ensure that workers complete the Job Hazards Analysis process.
 - 6.1.3. Ensure that safety controls (e.g. immunizations) are implemented prior to the start of work.
 - 6.1.4. When advised by the Biological Use Authorization, direct their workers to attend appointments in Health Services for health evaluations and/or immunization.
 - 6.1.5. Assist Health Services in arranging appointments for affected managers and their workers.
 - 6.1.6. Prevent workers, students and guests from working with biological etiologic agents until the employees are approved for such work by Health Services.
- 6.2. The LBNL IBC, shall:
 - 6.2.1. Review proposed work with biohazardous materials and/or biological etiologic agents in accord with the PUB-3000 Chapter 26 and the LBNL Biosafety Manual.
 - 6.2.2. Seek input from the Site Occupational Medical Director or SOMD designate on ways to reduce the risk of infection, when protocols anticipate work with biological etiologic agents or unknown environmental samples reasonably suspected of containing biological etiologic agents. This input shall include the availability and advisability of the use of vaccines in preventing occupational infections. Normally, this input is received during the IBC meeting.
- 6.3. The LBNL Biosafety Officer, shall:

- 6.3.1. Ensure that every protocol reviewed by the Biosafety Committee is reviewed by the Site Occupational Medical Director or SOMD designate for consideration of the use of vaccines to protect the workers.
- 6.3.2. Refer to the SOMD and IBC applicable standards or guidelines regarding vaccination relative to the proposed work.
- 6.4. The Site Occupational Medical Director, shall:
 - 6.4.1. Consult with the LBNL Biosafety Officer, IBC, and others to evaluate the risk of occupational infection from LBNL research using biohazardous materials or biological etiologic agents.
 - 6.4.2. Identify and review applicable standards or guidelines regarding vaccination relative to the proposed work.
 - 6.4.3. Recommend for or against the use of vaccination for some or all workers as a means to reduce the risk of occupational infection.
 - 6.4.4. Serve as the LBNL Subject Matter Expert on the health aspects of vaccination policy and application to the specific work and workers.
 - 6.4.5. Recommend other means, as appropriate, for reducing the risk of occupational infection.

7.0 PROCEDURES

- 7.1. For the pre-approval of work with biological agents, see the Biosafety Manual.
- 7.2. For the internal procedures of the Biosafety Committee, see the Biosafety Manual.
- 7.3. For soliciting the immunization recommendations of the Site Occupational Medical Director, the Biosafety Committee shall:
 - 7.3.1. Invite the Site Occupational Medical Director to all Biosafety Committee meetings.
 - 7.3.2. When the Site Occupational Medical Director or his/her designee is not present, the LBNL Biosafety Officer is responsible for getting the recommendations from the Site Occupational Medical Director.
- 7.4. In the event that a vaccine is recommended by the Site Occupational Medical Director as potentially protective for a given exposure, and the risk is sufficient to consider vaccination, medical evaluations to determine whether immunizations are appropriate for individual employees working with biological etiologic agents, principal investigators or employees should call Health Services for an appointment.
 - 7.4.1. At that appointment, characteristics of the vaccine and the worker shall be considered to determine whether the vaccine's potential benefits outweigh the vaccine risks.
 - 7.4.2. The recommendation for vaccine usage may only apply to subgroups of employees, based on their health status and/or the contraindications of the vaccine.
 - 7.4.3. Recommended vaccines shall be provided at no cost to the employee.
 - 7.4.4. Medical records shall be maintained for vaccinated employees according to medical record guidelines.