

Carnegie Mellon University Immune Compromised Personnel in the Research Laboratory Guidance Document

Scope

Carnegie Mellon University adheres to federal guidelines to minimize potential infection as a result of conditions that may compromise the immune system and predispose personnel to infection.

To ensure compliance, this document mandates that all employees and students who work in Biological Safety Level 2 (BSL-2) research laboratories be provided with information on the potential risks of working with biological materials with a compromised immune system.

Information and Training

The biological safety officer shall provide training sessions in which all students and employees, including supervisors, who are to work in BSL-2 labs are informed, orally and in writing, about this guidance document. At these sessions, attendees are given the opportunity to have questions answered. The biological safety officer may, at his or her discretion, administer an oral and/or written exam in order to confirm attendees' understanding of the subject matter.

The principal investigator obtains from each student and employee a signed acknowledgment of understanding of the Immune Compromised Personnel Guidance Document. No employee or student may enter a BSL-2 lab before attending such a training session and signing such an acknowledgment of understanding.

Any employee or student who performs work in BSL-2 (or higher) labs at other, non-Carnegie Mellon University locations, including Carnegie Mellon University-Qatar campus, is responsible for informing the principal investigator at Carnegie Mellon University of those activities.

Self-Identification

Any employee or student who works in a BSL-2 lab of the university and determines they are immune compromised may officially declare their immune compromised status to the biological safety officer. To be considered an official self-identification of immune compromised status, this must be in writing and contain the date of diagnosis. An official immune compromised self-identification form can be obtained from the biological safety officer. Please note, there is no need to divulge the cause of your immune compromised status.

An immune compromised employee or student has no obligation to officially declare their immune compromised status nor will declaration of immune compromised status necessarily prevent them from working in BSL-2 labs.

Risk Assessment

Upon receiving an official self-identification of immune compromised status, the biological safety officer shall work with the employee or student to review the work being performed by the immune compromised employee or student and determine whether they are at risk based on the laboratory BSL and the biological materials listed on the laboratory's inventory. If, based on this risk assessment, the employee or student is at risk for potential exposure, the biological safety officer and/or supervisor shall identify and implement appropriate precautions and engineering controls to reduce or eliminate exposure to potential pathogens.

Records

The biological safety officer shall maintain all official self-identification of immune compromised status records in accordance with

[*Biosafety in Microbiology and Biomedical Laboratories, 5th edition, December 2009*](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health,

[*Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules*](#), October 2011. National Institutes of Health,

References

- [*Biosafety in Microbiology and Biomedical Laboratories, 5th edition, December 2009*](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health,
- [*Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules*](#), October 2011. National Institutes of Health,

Contact

Questions concerning this policy or its intent should be directed to the Biological Safety Office, x8-8182.

Acknowledgment of Understanding of the Immune Compromised Personnel Guidance Document

For: [Print Name] _____

I have read and understood the Immune Compromised Personnel Guidance Document. I have been given oral information on this document and have been given an opportunity to have any questions answered. I understand that I may not enter a BSL-2 lab before attending such a training session and signing this acknowledgment of understanding. I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the principal investigator(s) of my lab(s) if I perform work in BSL-2 (or higher) labs at other, non-Carnegie Mellon University locations

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Principal Investigator's Printed Name

Principal Investigator's Signature

Date

