If you have certain types of medical conditions or are taking certain types of medications, you may be at an increased risk of becoming ill as a result of working with the materials in your laboratory. This increased risk is due to the fact that your body’s natural defenses against illness may be compromised either by the disease itself or by the treatments you have been prescribed.

Immunocompromised patients are susceptible to bacterial, fungal and viral infections that healthy immune systems usually conquer. As a result, what may be safe to work with for healthy adults, may not be safe for people with an impaired immune system and special precautions may be necessary. Some examples of these conditions or medications include:

- HIV infection
- Leukemia
- Certain types of cancers
- Diabetes
- Spleen removal surgery
- White blood cell deficiencies or diseases
- Corticosteroid therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Anti-neoplastic drugs
- Pregnancy

If you have any of these conditions, are taking any of these medications, or are if your immune system is impaired in any way you may want to consult with your physician and inform him/her of the materials you are working with. Also, you should become familiar with the types of materials that you are working with to see if you are at increased risk of becoming ill as result of working with them.