Response to and Reporting Requirements for Incidents Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids Molecules (rDNA)

1. Spills involving rDNA

Response to accidental spill of rDNA material handled at BSL1

1. Wear lab coat and gloves. Wear eye or face protection if there is a splash hazard.
2. Remove glass fragments or other sharp material with forceps and dispose in a sharps container
3. Cover entire spill with absorbent material such as paper towels.
4. Carefully pour a 1:10 dilution of household bleach or other approved disinfectant around the edges of the spill and then onto the spill. Avoid splashing.
5. Soak fresh absorbent material with disinfectant and use to clean spill area.
6. Discard waste in a red bag.
7. If the spill is in a biosafety cabinet (BSC) and it is necessary to clean the area under the work deck, contact EH&S for guidance. The BSC should remain on during cleanup.
8. Dispose of gloves in red bag and wash hands.

Response to accidental spill of rDNA material handled at BSL2

1. Alert individuals close to the spill if the spill is outside the biosafety cabinet.
2. Wear lab coat and gloves. Wear eye or face protection if there is a splash hazard.
3. Remove glass fragments or other sharp material with forceps and dispose in a sharps container.
4. Cover entire spill with absorbent material such as paper towels.
5. Carefully pour a solution of a 1:10 dilution of household bleach or other approved disinfectant around the edges of the spill and then onto the spill. Avoid splashing.
6. Allow a 30 minute contact time.
7. Use paper towels to wipe up the spill, starting from the edges into the center.
8. Clean spill area with fresh absorbents soaked in disinfectant.
9. Discard waste in a red bag.
10. If the spill is in a BSC and it is necessary to clean the area under the work deck , contact EH&S for guidance. The BSC should remain on during cleanup.
11. Dispose of gloves in red bag and wash hands.

Response to accidental spill of rDNA material handled at BSL3

If the spill involves BSL3 material outside of containment, personnel should leave the lab, close the door, notify the PI and EH&S immediately and wait at least one hour prior to following the BSL3 protocol for cleanup of spills.

2. Response to rDNA Exposure Incident

Needlestick.

1. Immediately flush affected area with tepid water for 5 minutes.
2. Cover wound with bandage
3. Notify supervisor and report to Occupational Health Services (OHS) during business hours (9AM-5PM). Outside of business hours go to the NYU Langone Medical Center (NYULMC) Emergency Department. Contact NYU Public Safety for incidents at NYU College of Dentistry or NYU Washington Square for transport to Student Health Services or an Emergency Room.
4. Complete Employee Occupational Injury and Illness Report (EOIIR).

Splash to Eye, mucous membrane or non-intact skin

1. Immediately flush affected area with tepid water for 5 minutes.
2. For exposure to eye rinse eyeball and inner surface of eyelid with eyewash for 15 minutes
3. Perform first aid if possible and applicable
4. Remove contaminated clothing and dispose in red bag or seal in a bag for decontamination
5. Notify supervisor and report to OHS during business hours (9AM-5PM). Outside of business hours go to the NYULMC Emergency Department. Contact NYU Public Safety for incidents at NYU College of Dentistry or NYU Washington Square for transport to Student Health Services or an Emergency Room.
6. Complete an EOIIR

3. Reporting Requirements and Responsibilities

The NIH requires institutions to report incidents involving rDNA materials including loss, theft, or release. Report any loss, theft, or release involving rDNA materials to EH&S or to the IBC as soon as possible.

Personnel involved in a spill or exposure incident are required to report it to their supervisor or PI and to report to OHS if there is a needlestick or high risk exposure.

PIs or supervisors are required to report all rDNA spills and exposures to EH&S and/or to the IBC as soon as possible.

The IBC and EH&S are responsible for determining if a spill or exposure incident needs to be reported to the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA). The IBC or EH&S can contact OBA if uncertain whether the nature or severity of the incident warrants reporting; OBA can assist in making this determination. For more information see:
http://www.osp.od.nih.gov/sites/default/files/FAQs_about_Incident_Reporting.pdf

Minor spills of low-risk agents not involving a breach of containment that were properly cleaned and decontaminated generally do not need to be reported to OBA.

Spills or accidents involving rDNA that lead to personal injury or illness or to a breach of containment must be reported to OBA. These kinds of events include:

- skin punctures with needles containing rDNA,
- the escape or improper disposition of a transgenic animal, or
- spills of high-risk rDNA materials occurring outside of a biosafety cabinet.

Failure to adhere to the containment and biosafety practices articulated in the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines)* must also be reported to OBA.

In general, violations of the *NIH Guidelines* or significant research related accidents and illnesses must be reported to OBA within 30 days of the incident. Some incidents, including spills or accidents in BSL2 laboratories resulting in overt exposure and spills or accidents occurring in BSL3 or 4 laboratories resulting in an overt or potential exposure must be reported to OBA immediately.

3. Important Contact Information

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), NYU School of Medicine 212-263-5159
Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), Wash. Square and Dental School.....212 998-1450
Institutional Biosafety Committee ..... ibc@nyumc.org or 646-754-5258
Occupational Health Services (NYULMC) 212-263-5020
1 Park Ave 3rd floor
Student Health Center (NYU Wash. Square & Dental School) 212.443.1000
726 Broadway 3rd floor
NYU Public Safety (Washington Square)…….212-998-2222
NYU Public Safety (NYU College of Dentistry)…… ….212-998-9828