

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

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Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 26 January 2016
Response Date: 28 January 2016
Type of TTA Request: Standard

Request:

██████████ asked if ASPR TRACIE had any biosafety risk assessment tools, such as templates or checklists.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team conducted research on biosafety risk assessment tools and found several resources. The first section below provides biosafety risk assessments tools to include templates and checklists. The second section includes relevant guidance documents and other resources (e.g., presentations). Finally, the third section provides materials related to specific diseases, such as Ebola and influenza.

I. Biosafety Risk Assessment Tools

Association of Public Health Laboratories. (2015). [A Biosafety Checklist: Developing A Culture of Biosafety.](#)

This checklist was developed to serve as a starting point for laboratories to assess the biosafety measures that they have in place.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). [Biological Risk Assessment Worksheet.](#) (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This worksheet allows users to enter in their laboratory procedures for each agent-specific Biological Risk Assessment. This resource also links to the [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biological Laboratories](#) (5th Edition), which has additional guidance on facilities, work practices, personal protective equipment, and medical surveillance.

Columbia University, Environmental Health and Safety. (n.d.). [Health & Safety Manual - Biological Safety.](#) (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This manual serves as a resource for researchers and staff at Columbia University, and supports their activities/ mission to: protects all personnel and visitors from laboratory-acquired infections; maintain the security and integrity of specimens and other research materials; provide environmental protection to minimize risks to those outside the

laboratory and beyond the confines of the campus; and ensure compliance with existing federal, state, and city health, safety, and environmental regulations and guidelines. Links to all manual sections are provided on the left tool bar, and include various checklists (e.g., work practices, personal protective equipment, and decontamination).

National Institutes of Health (NIH). (2014). [Institutional Biosafety Committee Self-Assessment Tool](#).

This tool may be used by institutions to evaluate their Institutional Biosafety Committees and programs of oversight for research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules for compliance with the requirements articulated in the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules.

Sandia National Laboratories. (2009). [Biorisk Assessment Models \(BioRAMs\)](#).

This resource provides two biorisk models and software tools, available upon request through this page. The biorisk assessment models were designed for use by biorisk officers at laboratories and provide visualization of the relative risks, and help to identify risk mitigation measures. The main objective of these models is to help strengthen risk governance in the laboratories by providing assessment methods that are standardized, systematic, and repeatable.

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). (n.d.) [Biosafety Risk-Assessment Tool](#). (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This webpage provides a link to the SIUE application form and the risk-assessment tool to be submitted to the Institutional Biosafety Committee for review.

University of Minnesota, Department of Environmental Health and Safety. (n.d.). [Biosafety: Bio Basics Fact Sheets](#).

This webpage provides several fact sheets that have been prepared to provide research laboratories with procedures to create a safe and compliant work environment. The fact sheets include links to more in-depth information where appropriate. They may be used as tools to prepare laboratory specific Standard Operating Procedures and for lab safety training.

University of Minnesota, Department of Environmental Health and Safety. (n.d.). [Lab Biosafety Self-Audit Form](#). (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This tool is a self-assessment form and provides checklists on training, and standard microbiological practices for all biosafety levels. **NOTE:** To access the form, click on the link titled “Self Assessment Form.”

II. Biosafety Risk Assessment Guidance Documents and Other Resources

American Biological Safety Association (ABSA). (n.d.). [Resources](#). (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This is the Resources webpage to the ABSA website, which includes various resources such as: Riskgroup Database, Ebola Information, Biosafety Buyer's Guide, Biosafety Links, Training Tools/ Resources, Animal Biosafety Videos, and ABSA/ OSHA Fact Sheets.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2009). [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories: 5th Edition](#).

This document provides best practices for the safe conduct of work in biomedical and clinical laboratories from a biosafety perspective. It includes information on occupational medicine and immunization, decontamination and sterilization, laboratory biosecurity and risk assessment, biosafety level 3 (Ag) laboratories, agent summary statements for some agricultural pathogens, and biological toxins.

Dumas, N. (2011). [Risk Assessment in the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory](#). Wadsworth Center New York State Department of Health.

This presentation addresses biohazard risk assessments and priorities, procedures and activities, and issues faced by clinical microbiology laboratories.

National Institutes of Health (NIH). (n.d.). [Biosafety: Biosafety Guidance](#). (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This website provides links to several guidance documents, educational materials, and other resources related to biosafety.

Nesby-O'Dell, S. (n.d.). [Approaches to the Biosafety Risk Assessment Process \(Qualitative & Quantitative\)](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This presentation addresses laboratory biosafety risk assessment approaches, common features, examples, and risk assessment steps.

University of Minnesota, Department of Environmental Health and Safety. (n.d.). [Biosafety Manual](#). (Accessed 1/27/2016).

This resource includes links to the various sections of the Biosafety Manual to include Accidental Exposure/ Emergency Response, Autoclave Safety and Effectiveness, Biological Safety Cabinets, Bloodborne Pathogen/ Human Infectious Agents, Facts Sheets, Risk Assessments, among many others.

III. Disease-specific Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). [Interim Risk Assessment and Biosafety Level Recommendations for Working With Influenza A\(H7N9\) Viruses.](#)

This resource provides information about the laboratory, health, and environmental risks associated with influenza A (H7N9) viruses, and type(s) of containment criteria to be applied when handling this agent. It provides information about agent-associated risk assessment factors, and makes biosafety and biocontainment recommendations.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (2014). [Interim Biosafety Guidelines for Laboratories Handling Specimens from Patients under Investigation for Ebola Virus Disease.](#)

This resource provides interim biosafety guidelines for laboratories handling and transporting specimens from patients under investigation for Ebola virus disease, and is intended to support local risk assessments specifically for a laboratory setting. It covers additional operational considerations, occupational health, decontamination, disposal, spill consideration, and shipping samples to the National Microbiology Laboratory.

World Health Organization. (2012). [Guidance for Adoption of Appropriate Risk Control Measures to Conduct Safe Research on H5N1 Transmission.](#)

The World Health Organization consulted with scientific bodies and experts and referred to existing frameworks and guidelines to develop this biosafety and laboratory biosecurity guidance on conditions under which research should be conducted on the laboratory-modified H5N1 viruses.