

Biosafety Levels - A Simple Understanding

Developed by Ron Banks

BioSafety Level	Route of Infection	How to Get Sick	How to Stay Healthy
BSL 1	Doesn't infect humans.	Don't worry, you can't.	You will.
BSL 2	Oral or by injection.	Eat in the lab; Don't wash your hands; Be careless with needles.	Good lab practices.
BSL 3	By breathing.	Don't work in a cabinet; the counter top will do just fine.	Protective equipment, biosafety cabinets, isolators.
BSL 4	By being in the same room.	Work with the agent at a university.	Work at Fort Detrick or CDC.

Animal BioSafety Levels, (ABSL's) describe similar levels of husbandry and containment necessary when vertebrate animals are infected with infectious agents.

Complete and authoritative recommendations for the handling of infectious agents are given in the CDC's "[Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories](#)". The complete text of this book is available via the Web.

Further questions? Contact URCO: comply@ksu.edu