**Tell us... we can help!**

Report pre-existing or immune-compromising conditions to BOHP so that you can be referred for an occupational medicine consult; alternately, advise your personal physician of your workplace duties and potential exposures. These medical professionals can advise you if your duties and exposures could potentially impact your health, and what steps to take to reduce your risk.

You are also encouraged to promptly notify BOHP of any other changes in your health, such as pregnancy, so that you and your current job duties can be evaluated by an occupational medicine provider for any changes that might need to be made.

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**Pre-existing or Immune-compromising Conditions?**

If you have an underlying health condition which is known to weaken your immune system, if you have asthma or animal allergies, if you are pregnant, or if you have other pre-existing medical conditions, you may increase your risk of infection by working with animals or pathogens, or your work may negatively affect your health.

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**In the Event of a Biological Exposure**

**IMMEDIATELY**

Report all on-the-job accidents, injuries, and exposures involving biohazards to your supervisor and to the:

Biosafety Occ. Health Program  
979.845.6649

or

979.862.6455

After hours, weekends, or on holidays, call the radio room at 979.845.4311 to relay a message.

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**What is Considered an Exposure?**

1) Any skin piercing injury with an unclean object  
2) Any skin piercing injury from an animal with a known or suspected zoonotic disease  
3) Any known or suspected contact with a bat, with, or without visible injury  
4) Any splash or spray into eyes, nose, mouth, or onto non-intact skin by blood, body fluid, cell culture, or microbiological isolate, regardless of animal or human origin.  
5) Any failure to wear a correctly fitted respirator where one is required.

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**Contact BOHP:**

http://bohp.tamu.edu  
http://rcb.tamu.edu/bohp  
bohp@tamu.edu  
phone: 979.845.6469 or 979.862.6455  
fax: 979.862.6481  
750 Agronomy Road, Suite 2701  
General Services Complex
Biosafety Occupational Health Program

The Biosafety Occupational Health Program (BOHP) is charged with ensuring that any person:

1) potentially exposed to pathogens and potential pathogens of humans, animals or plants,
2) potentially exposed to animals and their allergens, or
3) potentially exposed to any large scale (10 or more liters of culture in a single vessel) research or production of viable organisms containing recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules which require BL3 containment at the laboratory scale

Who Participates in BOHP?

- Any person listed on an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) permit who work at Biosafety Level 2 or higher OR on an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or on an Agricultural Animal Care and Use Committee Animal Use Protocol (AUP).
- Any person identified by a Biosafety Occupational Health Program exposure assessment as being exposed or potentially exposed to biohazards or animals in the course of their duties, studies, or activities at Texas A&M.
- Any visitor listed on any IBC permit or AUP. The PI may need to amend permits and protocols on which the visitor will be participating long term.

Exposure Assessment is the Key

Exposure assessment is defined as the characterization of potential adverse health effects from exposure to biological hazards.

Exposure Assessment for Research and Teaching Personnel

For research and teaching personnel, exposure assessment and mitigation is part of the principal investigator’s approval process for Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) permits and Animal Use Protocols (AUP).

Exposure Assessment for Operations Staff

For university operations staff, department supervisors will complete a Biosafety Occupational Health Program exposure assessment by job title to determine the employee’s potential for exposure to biohazards or animals.

Exposure Assessment for Students in Teaching Labs

For university students enrolled in teaching labs, instructors will complete an IBC teaching permit or teaching AUP to determine the student’s potential for exposure to biohazards or animals.

Risk mitigation services provided by BOHP include:

- Classroom and online BBP training
- Educational brochures and materials
- Occupational injury and exposure prevention services
- Referrals for respiratory protection
- Pre-exposure vaccinations
- Routine medical surveillance
- Medical consultation in the event of a potential biological exposure

Initial Questionnaire and Annual Update

It is mandatory to complete the BOHP enrollment questionnaire, and to review and update your information at least annually, or more frequently if needed. Notify BOHP if you change jobs within Texas A&M, or take on new jobs or job duties with potential biohazard exposure.

I want to know more about BOHP...

Enrollment and training information can be found on our website at http://bohp.tamu.edu.