



FOCUS on Field Epidemiology

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Laboratory Biosafety Levels

1. Are there any laboratory facilities associated with your office or department? If so, what biosafety level(s) are they?

It might be handy to know exactly what kind of facilities are available for you to easily access. If you don't know the answer to this question, you might want to discuss it with a coworker who does know.

2. Where is the closest BSL-3 lab to where you are?
Have any recent investigations used these facilities?

BSL-3 facilities are not as common as BSL-2 facilities. You might have a BSL-3 facility nearby at your district's public health laboratory, or you might have to submit specimens to a private lab, university, or state public health laboratory if BSL-3 containment is needed.

3. Where is the closest BSL-4 lab to where you are?
What are the procedures in your department for submitting a specimen to this lab?

It is a good idea to know if your department has a policy for handling materials potentially infected with BSL-4 agents. It is best to know this policy before you actually have to use it, so you are prepared!

If your office does not have a procedure in place, the department might consider making it someone's project to develop and adopt BSL-3 and BSL-4 protocols.



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