

BIOHAZARD DOOR POSTINGS

Scope

The content of this SOP is based on signage and labeling requirements established by the following standards (*referenced in this document as footnote notations*):

1. *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines)*, National Institutes of Health
2. *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)*, Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health
3. *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030*, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Biohazard Door Postings

Biohazard postings for research, clinical and teaching laboratories are issued and provided to the PI by EHS after a safety audit has been conducted or upon request. These postings are required by the federal standards listed above when: (a) a human, animal, or plant pathogen/pest² is present; (b) special provisions for entry into the laboratory are required¹; or (c) the work space is an HIV and/or HBV Research Laboratory³. These postings must be placed at the entrance to the laboratory. The posting may contain the following components:

- **Universal biohazard symbol** (*required where human pathogens are present*)¹⁻³
- **Name of the agent in use** (*In accordance with university policy; required for HIV/HBV labs per OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) standard*)¹⁻³
- **Designated Biosafety Containment Level of the laboratory** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)²
- **Name and phone number of the Principal Investigator (PI) or other responsible person** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)¹⁻³
- **Procedures required for entry** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)¹⁻³
- **Procedures required for exit** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)²
- **Date generated/printed**

An example posting for laboratory spaces is provided below (Figure 1). When human biohazards are present in a laboratory, the above-listed components are incorporated into standard EHS door placards as described in the EHS SOP, **Door Postings for Potentially Hazardous Locations**. The biohazard symbol is displayed in black ink on an orange background along with the containment level for the room, the words “Human Biohazards

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Present” and standard exit procedures advising personnel to remove PPE and wash hands prior to exiting the lab.

The signs will only list the agent in use when the lab is working with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and/or Hepatitis B virus (Figure 2).³ At UNL, the universal biohazard symbol is only used when human biohazards are present. If animal or plant pathogen/plant pests are the only biohazardous agents in the lab, the standard EHS hazard door placard will be used. A green plant pathogen/plant pest sign may be seen on some labs that have USDA permits for regulated plant materials or plant pathogens (Figure 4).

Figure 1 Sample Placard for Research Labs with Human Biohazards Present



Figure 2 Sample Placard for HIV Research Labs




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Animal Facility Door Postings


Biohazard postings for animal facilities are generated and provided to the PI or facility manager to post after a biosafety audit has been conducted or upon request. These postings (required by the federal standards referenced above) are to be displayed at the entrance to areas where: (a) *infectious materials and/or animals are housed or manipulated*, or; (b) special provisions for entry are required. Locations using human pathogenic agents are distinguished from an animal-only pathogens by using a different color of paper. Postings for spaces with human or zoonotic biohazards are printed on orange paper and postings for spaces with animal-only pathogens are printed on yellow paper. Also, the universal biohazard symbol is only used when human biohazards are present. The posting **must** contain the following components:

- **Universal biohazard symbol**¹⁻²(*If the agent is infectious to humans*)
- **Name of the agent in use** (*In accordance with university policy*)¹
- **Animal Biosafety Containment Level (ABSL) of the facility**²
- **Animal species**¹
- **General occupational health requirements** (*In accordance with university policy*)²
- **PPE requirements**²
- **Name and phone number of the PI or other responsible person**¹⁻²
- **Procedures required for entry**¹⁻² and exit²
- **Date posted**

Figure 3 Sample Animal Facility Signs


HUMAN/ANIMAL BIOHAZARD	
	
ANIMAL BIOSAFETY LEVEL	
2	
Biohazardous Agent(s)	Zika & Dengue Virus
Animal Species	Mice
Occupational Health Requirements	None Beyond Standard IACP Requirements
Entrance Procedures for ANIMAL HANDLING	Required PPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Lab coat/gown <input type="checkbox"/> Bootsies <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical Mask <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves Additional PPE as required by Facility Procedures
Entrance procedures for OBSERVATION ONLY	Scrubs or facility coveralls, facility shoes or booties
Required Exit Procedures	Remove all PPE prior to exiting animal room. Wash hands and remove facility clothing and footwear prior to exiting facility.
PI:	Date Posted: 2/22/2017
Building:	
Room:	Work #
Contact Person:	Emergency #
Alt. Contact:	

For questions or concerns contact the UNL Biosafety Officer at 472-9554.



ANIMAL BIOHAZARD	
Restricted Area Authorized Personnel Only	
ANIMAL BIOSAFETY LEVEL	
2	
Biohazardous Agent(s)	Porcine Circovirus
Animal Species	<i>Sus scrofa domesticus</i>
Occupational Health Requirements	None Beyond Standard IACP Requirements
Entrance Procedures for ANIMAL HANDLING	Required PPE: <input type="checkbox"/> Lab coat/gown <input type="checkbox"/> Bootsies <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical Mask <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves Additional PPE as required by Facility Procedures
Entrance procedures for OBSERVATION ONLY	Same as for Animal Handling
Required Exit Procedures	Remove all PPE prior to exiting animal room, wash hands and room facility clothing and footwear prior to exiting facility.
PI:	Date Posted: 5/13/2018
Building:	
Room:	Work #
Contact Person:	Emergency #
Alt. Contact:	

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Greenhouse Facility and Plant Pathogen/Pest Research Lab Door Postings

Plant biohazard postings will most often be seen in greenhouse facilities, but certain research labs using USDA-regulated (APHIS-permitted) materials will also display these postings. The postings are generated and provided to the PI or facility manager to post after EHS has conducted a biosafety audit or upon request. These postings (required by the federal standards referenced above) are to be posted at the entrance to areas where: (a) plants containing recombinant DNA are housed; (b) plants infected with plant pathogens are housed; or (c) plant pests are housed or manipulated. The posting **must** contain the following components:

- **Plant Biosafety Containment Level of the facility²**
- **Plant-related hazard present**
- **Plants in use (for restricted experiments at BSL-2P or higher)¹**
- **Special requirements for using the area**
- **PPE requirements (if any)²**
- **Name and phone number of the PI or other responsible person¹⁻²**
- **Date posted**


Figure 4 Plant Pathogen/Pest Signage

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
WHEN EXPERIMENTS IN PROGRESS



PLANT BIOCONTAINMENT LEVEL	2
Research Plants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plant Pests <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Plants in Use: Zea Mays	
Special Considerations: <small>(e.g. PPE, entrance/exit procedures, etc.)</small>	Lab coat, gloves and eye protection should be worn as necessary for experiments involving plant pathogens.
All genetically modified and/or contaminated plant material and soil must be rendered biologically inactive prior to disposal.	
PI: John Doe	Date Posted: 10/29/19
Building: Agronomy and Horticulture Greenhouse 4	
Room: D3	Work # Emergency #
Primary Contact: John Doe	(402) 555-5555 (402) 123-4567
Secondary Contact:	

For questions about this posting or to update information, please contact the UNL Biosafety Officer at 472-9554.



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