

**BU Agent Incident Reporting Summary July 2014 to September 2014 (Quarter 3)**

<b>**CAMPUS</b>	<b>Date of Incident</b>	<b>Incident Type/Agent Involved</b>	<b>BSL</b>	<b>Transmissible Person to Person</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>*Reportable Incident</b>	<b>Report of Clinical Illness</b>	<b>Comments/Corrective Actions</b>
<b>BU Medical Campus (BUMC)</b>								
BUMC	7/2/14	Splash	BSL2	No	At 6:00 pm on 7/2/14, a graduate student sustained a splash to her face and right eye when a container of erythrocin (dye) fell from the rack. While putting a container of erythrocin dye back on the rack, it fell to the surface of the workbench. The cap had not been secured properly, and 15-20 ml splashed on her face, with a small amount splashing into her right eye, which had been covered by her glasses. She immediately washed and rinsed her face (with soap and water) and her eye (with water). After washing, she called ROHP's answering service and was sent to the BMC-ER. At the ER, the incident was treated as a chemical splash to the eye, and she was discharged from the ER in less than 2 hours. She reports that everything is fine today, with no eye irritation and no significant concern about the exposure.	No	No	Always be aware of what you are doing and ensure proper PPE is worn.
BUMC	7/25/14	Splash	BSL2	No	On 7/25/14, a graduate student took a closed vial out of liquid nitrogen, wearing safety glasses as she carried out this task. She then removed the safety glasses and placed the vial in a water bath to thaw. As she did so, a few drops of liquid from the water bath splashed on her face. She did not feel any droplets in her eyes. Regardless, she immediately removed her contact lenses, rinsed her eyes and face in the eye bath for about 5 minutes, and called ROHP. She experienced no irritation of the skin or of the eyes at that time or over the next 3 days. The water bath contained 37 degree centigrade water with a dilute amount of Vesphene II disinfectant added. She reported the incident to ROHP promptly and came to ROHP for a routine exposure follow-up.	No	No	In the future the student will wear the safety glasses during the water bath portion of the procedure.
BUMC	8/12/14	Mouse Bite	BSL2	No	At 1:50 pm on 8/12/14, a graduate student sustained a bite to his right 3d finger through a protective glove while participating in a training related to animal handling. The injury occurred as he restrained the mouse with his left hand in order to give a subcutaneous injection with the right hand. The mouse was a "clean" training mouse which had not been exposed to biological agents or to toxins. The graduate student's tetanus status is up to date. Evaluation and anticipatory guidance related to the injury were carried out over the phone. A report of a research animal bite was sent to the BPHC.	Yes	No	Retraining on animal handling provided by LASC.
<b>Charles River Campus (CRC)</b>								
CRC	7/10/14	Laceration	BSL2	No	At 10:15 am on Thursday, 7/10/14, an undergraduate summer student sustained a laceration that led to a transport by ambulance to the BMC ER. While participating in an organic chemistry class, he took a clean (new, but not sterile) glass pipette out of a box, and began to put a suction piece on the tip of the pipette. The pipette snapped in half and jammed into the palmar aspect of his right hand, puncturing the area between the palm of his hand and the ring finger. Upon noticing some bleeding, he washed the wound and applied pressure. Because the bleeding was not quickly controlled, Public Safety was called, and the student was transported to the BMC ER for treatment. Treatment involved 3 sutures.	No	No	Make sure the students are trained in the basic glassware handling techniques before the experiment. If the student was unsure, ask the instructor for proper procedure.

CRC	7/31/14	Inhalation	BSL2	No	<p>Around 2:00 pm on 7/31/14, a post-doc associate was conducting a chemical process that involved heating methanol, with the following materials dissolved in the methanol, in a 50 ml flask with a rubber stopper:</p> <p>2-acrylamide-2-methylpropane (3 g)  imidazole (1 g)  dopamine (3 mg)  copper bromide (8 mg)  2,2 bipyridyl (5 mg)  ascorbic acid (5 mg).</p> <p>Upon heating the solution, the flask was under pressure. When the PDA removed the stopper, she was exposed to fumes from the flask, and experienced itching of the nose, mouth, and throat. EHS and ROHP were contacted promptly. Because an allergic reaction was suspected, the PDA was transported by ambulance to Beth Israel Hospital, where she was evaluated and released. The incident had been misidentified as a chemical spill, and a BFD Hazmat Team responded, evaluated the situation, and then dispersed.</p>	No	No	If the chemicals requires a fume hood only manipulate or handle them in a fume hood. Always report incidences to your supervision in the lab.
CRC	8/29/14	Laceration	BSL2	No	<p>On 8/29/14, a custodian sustained a small laceration to his right index finger while removing a black trash bag from a trash barrel in an engineering lab on the CRC. The following morning, he noticed signs of infection around the injury, and he was sent to Cambridge Health Alliance, where he received both surgical treatment (lancing) and a course of antibiotics. He did not miss work related to this injury. The object in the trash was a plastic item with a sharp edge or tip. It is now believed to have been a pipette tip which was inappropriately discarded in the trash rather than in a sharps box. It had most likely been used to mix a low hazard polystyrene microsphere product with saline.</p>	No	Yes	Labs were reminded of sharps policy. The employee was told to report this type of issue immediately.
CRC	9/24/14	Laceration	BSL2	No	<p>An undergraduate research assistant reported on 9/24/14 at 10:30pm that she had an sharp injury incident 9/24/14 at 5pm. This staff reports she was wearing one pair of gloves prepping tissue for a micro CT Scan from a human femoral head when the scalpel she was holding slipped and accidentally nicked her left index finger. She washed the site immediately with soap and water. According to the PI, the source tissue was from a HCV+ source that had been soaked in 4% PFA paraformaldehyde for four weeks.</p>	No	No	Lab will order clamps to hold to bone fragments. Lab will include these clamps and potential upgrades to PPE (Kevlar gloves) to lab operation procedures.

National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory (NEIDL)								
NEIDL	8/14/14	Inhalation	BSL2	No	<p>Three employees from BU EHS presented at ROHP today to report a chemical exposure on 8/14/14 in the NEIDL. Intermittent exposure to a chemical in the air occurred over a 1/2 hour period during the process of validating a new decontamination procedure. This procedure involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--setting out spores in a lab in the NEIDL</li> <li>--closing the HVAC vents</li> <li>--fumigating the room with formaldehyde to levels of &gt;1200 ppm</li> <li>--neutralizing the formaldehyde (in a second fumigation process)</li> <li>--turning on the HVAC system</li> <li>--entering the room (entry #1), wearing full face respirators and Tyvek suits to take readings of the formaldehyde levels in the air and to retrieve the biological indicators. No formaldehyde was detected in the air at that time. (The HVAC system is on at this time).</li> <li>--entering the room (entry #2) to get rid of the salt-like residue on surfaces in the room. (The HVAC system is on at this time).</li> <li>--entering the room (entry #3) to shut down the HVAC system, introduce heated water to humidify the air in the room prior to running the decontamination process again, and to put out a new set of biological indicators. No PPE is worn at this time and the HVAC system is off. The employees briefly experienced irritation of the eyes, nose, and skin prior to donning personal protective equipment. The symptoms resolved promptly.</li> </ul>	No	No	A comprehensive SOP is to be developed covering topics including, but not limited to, equipment calibration, preparation of cleaning solution, adequate PPE, disposal of materials, vacating space during "decon mode" and use of hot plates. Staff have been reminded of instructions for reporting incidents.
NEIDL	9/23/14	Spill	BSL2	No	<p>During a routine inspection in the NEIDL on 9/23/14, two employees found approximately 1.5 gallons of liquid on the floor of the BSL4 Liquid Waste Decontamination Room, near the effluent liquid tank. The spill is believed to be a water leak from the after-cooler. Although BSL2 work is taking place in the source area (not BSL3 or BSL4 work), the engineering system is functioning as designed. (Waste is treated with a disinfectant in the lab overnight, then sent down the drain into a holding tank, where treatment continues). Policies and procedures were also followed today related to "a spill in the BSL4 area", even though this cannot be BSL4 material. The two employees who found the spill experienced no symptoms. They reported this to ROHP, spoke to an NP, and this was documented, but they were not seen by ROHP. They were not placed on a fever watch or any other surveillance related to this incident. Following discussion, the spill was cleaned up by Facilities, using a water vacuum, rather than having EHS clean up the spill. Steve Morash, the incident commander, will report this incident to the BPHC. ROHP has documented this incident in the individual medical records, and is reporting the incident to the B.U. Exposure email list.</p>	No	No	<p>Facilities will place spill socks around the area to help contain any water while we wait for parts and make the necessary repairs. Installed by 3 October 2014. 2. Facilities will install a berm around the Condensate Return Unit to contain leaks from the rest of the floor, eliminating any confusion about the source. Installed by 1 December 2014. 3. ERP will distribute the emergency response notification protocols to all Core Directors who will review these protocols with their staffs. Complete by 3 October 2014.</p>
Other - Collaborating Laboratory		No incidents						

\* Indicates if incident is reportable to local, state or federal agency (e.g. Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, Boston Public Health Commission, etc.)

\*\* Campus Location

BUMC - Boston University Medical Center

CRC - Charles River Campus

NEIDL - National Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratories

OTHER - work done at collaborating laboratories