***This is a BSL-2 fact sheet template that can be customized for any MSU BSL-2 lab.***

# Information for Visitors

**About DCPAH Laboratories**

The laboratories of the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) at Michigan State University (MSU) support the veterinary, agricultural and public health communities by providing diagnostic analyses of animal and crop-related samples. The range of services includes: pathology, toxicology, microbiology, endocrinology, and nutritional analysis, with many samples submitted for a variety of tests. With this said, biological materials such as body fluids, tissues that are sent to or collected at DCPAH for analysis, are likely to hold the same potential for infectious disease risk when they arrive at a DCPAH lab regardless of which lab receives the sample for analysis. It is for this reason that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that diagnostic laboratories follow biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) guidelines for operation.

**What is BSL-2?**

Biosafety Level 2 is a combination of lab facilities, equipment and practices that are designed to minimize any potential for accidental exposure to biological materials in use that are of moderate risk. Measures are taken to avoid incidents where biological material may be:

* splashed to the eyes, nose or mouth
* introduced into a person’s bloodstream through breaks in the skin or punctures of the skin with biologicallycontaminated items
* accidentally ingested.

Biosafety Level 2 facilities and procedures are typically used in many clinical and microbiological labs in order to protect personnel and minimize the potential for environmental release of biological materials.

## Health Notice

Please note that entry or work in any lab where biological materials are in use (regardless of the biosafety level) may pose an elevated risk of infection for individuals who are immunocompromised.

It is recommended that you consult with the DCPAH Section leader and your occupational health provider before working in this lab if you believe that you may be immunocompromised. Please remember that events such as pregnancy, recent illnesses caused by an infectious agent (i.e., the flu), chemotherapy, etc. can result in an immunocompromised state of health.

**What Biosafety Level 2 procedures apply to visitors of DCPAH BSL-2 labs?**

1. You must sign the lab visitor’s log and be escorted at all times while visiting the lab.

1. Do not touch anything in the lab that is not relative to the purpose for which you are in the lab.

1. Do not place any of your belongings on lab benches.

1. If you will be working in the lab, you must wear a lab coat while in the lab and remove the coat before leaving the lab. The lab coat will be provided for you by your escort.

1. If your work will require you to touch environmental surfaces in the lab, please wear fluid-resistant gloves. These will be provided for you by your escort.

1. Before leaving the lab, you must wash your hands.

Please note that additional personal protective equipment requirements may apply to your work and that the information here does not supersede your regular procedures but only enhances them.

**What other procedures must visitors follow?**

Your escort will provide you with information regarding any additional facility restrictions before you enter the BSL-2 lab area.