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Section: Parasitology Manual	Subject Title: Laboratory Safety Guidelines	
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LABORATORY SAFETY GUIDELINES

TREAT ALL SAMPLES AS BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL

As a general operating procedure all material should be considered to be a biohazard. It is therefore important that all unpreserved and unfixed samples should be handled with suitable gloves and that appropriate precautions are taken when handling the material (Universal Precautions).

Everyone working in the lab should read and be familiar with *Protection of Laboratory Workers from Infectious Disease (NCCLS Document M29-T2)* (see next page) and should consult the orange covered copy of *Laboratory Safety Manual (WHO)*.

ALL GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR LABORATORY SAFETY APPLY (See TML Safety Manual).

- Wear gloves when required
- Never mouth pipette
- No smoking or consuming food or drink anywhere in the laboratory
- Do not work with uncovered opened cuts or broken skin. Cover with suitable dressing and latex gloves.
- Do not create aerosols. Use extreme care when operating centrifuges, stirrers, pipetters etc. Cool inoculating loops or needles before touching colonies on plates or in liquid material
- Wipe off benches in your working area with suitable disinfectant before and after each day's work.
- Do not wear lab coats outside the lab.
- Do not place personal items such as eyeglasses on workbench.
- Beware of reactive and poisonous chemicals and handle them with respect.
- All fixatives and chemicals should be properly labelled.
- Know in advance where you nearest fire extinguishers are located.
- Always wash your hands before leaving the laboratory.
- Be aware that all specimens may contain biohazardous agents and protect yourself accordingly.
- Clean up any spills (generally with 1% bleach) before proceeding
- Make sure your co-workers are aware of any chemical or biological hazards that exist.

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Correct disposal of material is essential! All samples must be disposed of in the yellow plastic containers (sharps, glass or liquid), or in the designated biohazard disposal bag (non-sharp solids). If in doubt, ask for help. Do not dispose of non-biohazardous materials in the biohazard waste-- this is a waste of space and money.

Any percutaneous injury with sharps or any exposure to blood or body fluids on broken or damaged skin should be reported immediately to the lab director and Employee Health. If unsure always ask.