MIT Undergraduate Lab: Biosafety Level 1 (BL1) Practices and Procedures

- 1. Biosafety Level 1 (BL1) is a classification reserved for teaching laboratories where work is being done using only non-infectious, BL1, bacteria.
- 2. BL1 represents a degree of containment, which relies on standard microbiological practices, however, no primary or secondary containment shields are required other than a sink for washing hands.
- 3. Protective equipment to minimize exposure for students, TAs and staff will include required lab coats, gloves, and safety glasses while working with and handling biological agents.
- 4. TAs will clean up any biological spills promptly in the laboratory. The TAs will decontaminate the work counters and equipment with bleach on the completion of work each day.
- 5. All liquid cultures need to be inactivated with bleach to a final volume of 10% bleach right after the experiments and after 20 minutes, resulting inactivated liquid cultures can be disposed of down the drain. The TAs will provide squeeze bottles with bleach solutions.
- 6. Students will place all contaminated gloves, pipette tips, culture tubes into a biohazardous waste can. Any contaminated sharps will be placed into the biosharps container. TAs will autoclave any solid biohazardous waste and all materials used for bacteria cultures.
- 7. Autoclave biohazard bags will be taped to the front of lab benches.
- 8. The area of the lab where work is taking place will be taped off limiting access.
- 9. All students, TAs, staff will wash hands with anti-bacterial soap before and after handling materials, after changing gloves and before leaving lab.

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