

**BURRELL COLLEGE
OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
POLICY MANUAL**

SECTION: Scholarly Activity

BCOM Policy B8521

TOPIC: Hazard Communication

Approval Date: 08/22/18

Revised:

Approved: Signature on File

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POLICY

BCOM shall maintain a hazard communication program that complies with 29 CFR 1910, the recommendations of the CDC *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, 5th Ed., the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids, and other regulations or guidelines as appropriate.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL(S):

President, Dean, Vice President for Administration, Assistant Dean for Research

DEFINITIONS:

Hazardous Material: any item or agent (biological, chemical, and/or physical) which has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment either by itself or through interaction with other factors.

Hazard Assessment: a process that is intended to provide employees, students, volunteers, and visitors with information about potential health issues associated with their work or learning environment as well as recommend control measures so that they can make an informed decision about their continued work or learning activities either alone or in consultation with a qualified health care provider.

Hazard Mitigation: the sustained effort to reduce or eliminate the risk associated with exposure to hazardous agents.

Personal Protective Equipment: Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. Personal protective equipment may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, lab coats, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, coveralls, and full body suits.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS): a document that contains information on the potential health effects of exposure to chemicals or other potentially dangerous substance, and on safe working procedures when handling chemical products.

MSDS Online: an online SDS database used by BCOM to track chemicals or other potentially dangerous substances. MSDS online is available to all BCOM faculty, staff, and students through the MYBCOM.org portal.

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC): the BCOM committee authorized to provide oversight, administration, and review of College procedures involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids molecules, microorganisms, biologic toxins, and other biologic or chemical agents which may pose a threat to humans, animals, plants, or the environment.

PROCEDURES:

1. BCOM shall ensure identification and safe handling of chemical and/or biohazardous materials for employees, students, volunteers and visitors participating in BCOM sponsored and work related activities.
2. BCOM shall require that all areas presenting a hazardous agent risk be labeled with appropriate signage that identifies the hazardous risk.

3. Designated area managers shall be responsible for maintaining Safety Data Sheets, risk assessment, risk mitigation, and defining what personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn in the areas that they have responsibility over. BCOM shall provide appropriate PPE for individuals authorized to enter hazardous areas. Individuals entering the hazardous areas are responsible for being aware of signage and donning appropriate personal protective equipment.
4. Access to areas with hazardous agents may be restricted on the basis of a hazardous agent risk assessment.
5. It is strongly recommended that employees, students, and volunteers provide notification to the responsible laboratory supervisor, research advisor, faculty, or staff member of health status (e.g. immune status, allergies, pregnancy) so that appropriate hazard mitigation can be offered. Area directors are responsible for developing a hazard mitigation plan for the employee, student, or volunteer.
6. The College recognizes that not all chemicals stored or used in its special environments are uniformly toxic. However, the College has determined that any student, faculty, staff or volunteer who is pregnant, lactating, uncertain of their current pregnancy status, or is contemplating becoming pregnant in the near-future shall not be permitted to enter the gross anatomy lab or any other facility where hazardous chemicals or other toxic materials are being used. The College is prepared to provide comparable learning experiences where such is feasible and special environment participation is a significant element of the curriculum. (Reference 2018-19 BCOM Student Handbook).
7. This policy does not apply to chemicals or products that fit the following:
 - a. Articles which are formed to a specific shape or design during manufacturing and which do not release or result in exposure to toxic substances under normal conditions of use.
 - b. Products intended for human consumption. Retail and cafeteria food sale operations. Food, food additives, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, drugs prescribed for human use, or cosmetics, exclusive of the aforementioned agents being used for research purposes.

CROSS REFERENCES:

BCOM Student Handbook

<https://bcommm.org/research/research-laboratories/training-safety/>

BCOM Biological Safety Manual

BCOM Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan