University of Notre Dame Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
Communication and Exposure Plan for Anti-microbial Resistant Pathogens

Working with antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) pathogens presents unique challenges that require clear communication and meticulous documentation to safeguard researchers, laboratory personnel, and public health. A structured plan ensures that all individuals handling these pathogens are aware of potential risks and can respond effectively in case of exposure or contamination.

1. Maintaining Documentation of Known Antimicrobial Characteristics of Research Materials

☐ When research activities involve access to information about the presence of AMR pathogens in the materials used in a study, it is essential that this information be maintained appropriately. Examples include information provided by others outside the lab (such as screening results of clinical isolates provided by the source of tissues), as well as information discovered during the course of an experiment (such as the results of a minimum inhibitory concentration values collected by the researcher). All such information available to researchers in this protocol will be maintained by the lab, access to the information will be provided to all lab members, and it will be updated as new information about AMR pathogens is received or discovered.

Note: Not all materials will have information about the presence of AMR pathogens, and the IBC does not expect labs to have access to detailed information about AMR characteristics of all materials. However, it is critical when such information is available that it be maintained by the lab.

This lab will store information about known or discovered AMR pathogens in this protocol as follows:
(Provide specific location- folder/file name, physical location, etc.)

2. Risk Communication Within the Lab

☐ Clear communication is essential for all researchers in the lab to understand the specific risks of the organisms they are handling, including potential resistance mechanisms and treatment limitations. The information described in Section 1 above will be readily available and accessible to all members of the lab. Lab members will understand the increased risk of handling materials containing AMR pathogens, and understand that personal allergies or existing health conditions may increase risk to individuals.

3. Incident Response and Exposure Management

Maintaining accurate information and providing access within the lab as described above will ensure timely action in the event of accidental exposure, and minimize risks to lab personnel.

☐ In the case of a potential exposure, any available information described in Section 1 above related to the materials being manipulated in the experiment will be provided to any individual involved in the potential exposure. This information will be provided by the individual to Occupational Health care, Student Health Services, or any emergency care providers that evaluate the potential exposure.

4. Compliance with IBC Requirements and Regulatory Guidelines

☐ Should an exposure occur with potential AMR pathogens involved, reporting to the appropriate University offices will occur as required after immediate care and exposure management is initiated. Risk Management and Safety, the Institutional Biosafety Committee (ibc@nd.edu), and Notre Dame Research Administration and Compliance (compliance@nd.edu) will all be contacted.

As Principal Investigator, I certify that all of the above steps will be followed to ensure a safe laboratory work environment.

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Principal Investigator