

# Surface Disinfection in BSL2 Labs

**Hazard:** Infectious materials and other biohazardous agents handled at biosafety level 2 (BSL2) may pose a moderate risk to human health. Working at BSL2 requires that researchers employ work practices and containment measures to prevent the release of these materials. One necessary precaution is the adequate disinfection of laboratory work surfaces.

**Safety:** Surface disinfection is a function of chemical activity, concentration, and other factors including the presence of organic contamination. To ensure adequate disinfection in spite of variables such as soiled surfaces the UTHSC IBC *prohibits the use of alcohol as a surface disinfectant on IBC approved protocols.* Suitable disinfectants include 10% bleach, Spor Klenz, or other hydrogen peroxide based cleaners. All researchers working at BSL2 must ensure the availability of an appropriate surface disinfectant in their work area.

Contact the Office of Research Safety at ext. 8-6114 or [labsafety@uthsc.edu](mailto:labsafety@uthsc.edu) to properly dispose of thermometers and other mercury-containing equipment.

