

Biological Safety Level (BSL) is a biocontainment designation system with requirements intended to protect personnel from potentially harmful pathogenic exposure in a research environment.

Designation	Description	Laboratory Requirements
BSL-1	Required in the presence of microbes that do not consistently cause disease, such as E. coli.	Work can be done on an open bench and minimal PPE is required. Doors separate BSL-1 lab from rest of the facility.
BSL-2	Required in the presence of moderately hazardous microbes, such as S. aureus, or blood, cell lines, or tissue cultures of human and primate origin including all mammalian tumor cells.	The lab is restricted behind self-closing doors. Personnel wear minimal PPE. Many operations are performed within biological safety cabinets.
BSL-3	Required in the presence of potentially lethal, often "exotic" airborne microbes, such as tuberculosis.	The lab is restricted behind two sets of doors. Works may require immunizations and PPE plus respirators are advised. All work is performed within a biological safety cabinet. Filtered room air must be exhausted
BSL-4	Required in the presence of high risk of airborne transmission; infections are frequently fatal, as from Ebola.	Decontaminate all material before exiting lab; shower after exiting. Full body, positive-pressure cleanroom suit. All work is performed in a Class III biological safety cabinet. Lab is in a separate building.