



## BIOHAZARD DOOR POSTINGS

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### Scope

The content of this SOP is based on signage and labeling requirements established by the following standards (*referenced in this document as footnote notations*):

1. *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines)*, National Institutes of Health
2. *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)*, Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health
3. *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030*, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

### Biohazard Door Postings

Biohazard postings for research, clinical and teaching laboratories are issued and provided to the PI by EHS after a safety survey has been conducted or upon request. These postings are required by the federal standards listed above when: (a) a human, animal, or plant pathogen/pest<sup>2</sup> is present; (b) special provisions for entry into the laboratory are required<sup>1</sup>; or (c) the workspace is an HIV and/or HBV Research Laboratory<sup>3</sup>. These postings must be placed at the entrance to the laboratory. The posting may contain the following components:

- **Universal biohazard symbol** (*required where human pathogens are present*)<sup>1-3</sup>
- **Name of the agent in use** (*In accordance with university policy; required for HIV/HBV labs per OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) standard*)<sup>1-3</sup>
- **Designated Biosafety Containment Level of the laboratory** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)<sup>2</sup>
- **Name and phone number of the Principal Investigator (PI) or another responsible person** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)<sup>1-3</sup>
- **Procedures required for entry** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)<sup>1-3</sup>
- **Procedures required for exit** (*required for BSL-2 and higher*)<sup>2</sup>
- **Date generated/printed**

An example posting for laboratory spaces is provided below (Figure 1). When human biohazards are present in a laboratory, the above-listed components are incorporated into standard EHS door placards as described in the EHS SOP, **Door Postings for Potentially Hazardous Locations**. The biohazard symbol is displayed in black ink on an orange

background along with the containment level for the room, the words “Human Biohazards Present” and standard exit procedures advising personnel to remove PPE and wash hands prior to exiting the lab.

The signs will only list the agent in use when the lab is working with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and/or Hepatitis B virus (Figure 2).<sup>3</sup> At UNL, the universal biohazard symbol is only used when human biohazards are present. If animal or plant pathogen/plant pests are the only biohazardous agents in the lab, the standard EHS hazard door placard will be used. A green plant pathogen/plant pest sign may be seen on some labs that have USDA permits for regulated plant materials or plant pathogens (Figure 4).

**Figure 1 Sample Placard for Research Labs with Human Biohazards Present**

**Figure 2 Sample Placard for HIV Research Labs**



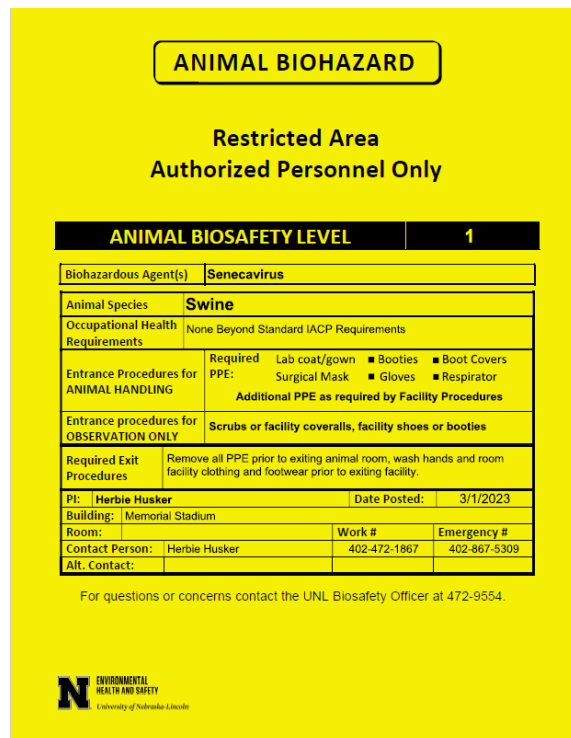
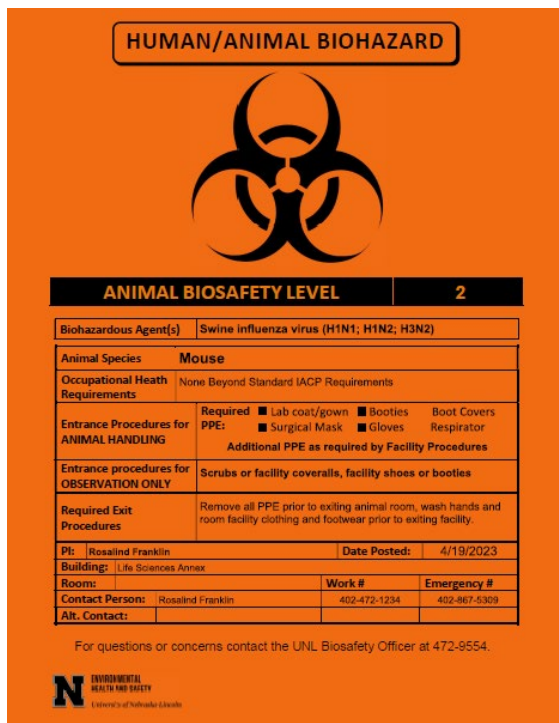
## Animal Facility Door Postings

Biohazard postings for animal facilities are generated and provided to the PI or facility manager to post after a safety survey has been conducted or upon request. These postings (required by the federal standards referenced above) are to be displayed at the entrance to areas where: (a) *infectious materials and/or animals are housed or manipulated*, or; (b) special provisions for entry are required. Locations using human pathogenic agents are distinguished from an animal-only pathogens by using a different color of paper. Postings for spaces with

human or zoonotic biohazards are printed on orange paper and postings for spaces with animal-only pathogens are printed on yellow paper. Also, the universal biohazard symbol is only used when human biohazards are present. The posting **must** contain the following components:

- **Universal biohazard symbol**<sup>1-2</sup>(*If the agent is infectious to humans*)
- **Name of the agent in use** (*In accordance with university policy*)<sup>1</sup>
- **Animal Biosafety Containment Level (ABSL) of the facility**<sup>2</sup>
- **Animal species**<sup>1</sup>
- **General occupational health requirements** (*In accordance with university policy*)<sup>2</sup>
- **PPE requirements**<sup>2</sup>
- **Name and phone number of the PI or other responsible person**<sup>1-2</sup>
- **Procedures required for entry**<sup>1-2</sup> and **exit**<sup>2</sup>
- **Date posted**

Figure 3 Sample Animal Facility Signs



## Greenhouse Facility and Plant Pathogen/Pest Research Lab Door Postings

Plant biohazard postings will most often be seen in greenhouse facilities, but certain research labs using USDA-regulated (APHIS-permitted) materials will also display these postings. The postings are generated and provided to the PI or facility manager to post after EHS has conducted a safety survey or upon request. These postings (required by the federal standards referenced above) are to be posted at the entrance to areas where: (a) plants containing recombinant DNA are housed; (b) plants infected with plant pathogens are housed; or (c) plant pests are housed or manipulated. The posting **must** contain the following components:

- **Plant Biosafety Containment Level of the facility**<sup>2</sup>
- **Plant-related hazard present**
- **Plants in use** (for restricted experiments at BSL-2P or higher)<sup>1</sup>
- **Special requirements for using the area**
- **PPE requirements** (if any)<sup>2</sup>
- **Name and phone number of the PI or other responsible person**<sup>1-2</sup>
- **Date posted**

Figure 4 Pathogen/Pest Signage

<p><b>AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY WHEN EXPERIMENTS IN PROGRESS</b></p>			
<b>PLANT CONTAINMENT LEVEL</b>		<b>2</b>	
GM Plants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Plant Pests <input type="checkbox"/>	
Plant Pathogens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Plants in Use:	Zea Mays		
Biological Containment Methods:	<input type="checkbox"/> Genetic modification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harvest prior to maturity	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sterile lines	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolation from cross-fertile plants	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cover flower/seed heads	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Special Considerations: <i>(e.g. PPE, entrance/exit procedures, etc.)</i>	Lab coat, gloves, eye protection should be worn as necessary for experiments involving plant pathogens.		
All plant pests/pathogens, genetically modified and/or contaminated plant material, and soil must be rendered biologically inactive prior to disposal.			
PI:	John Doe	Date Posted:	08/16/23
Building:	Agronomy and Horticulture Greenhouse 4		
Room/Growth Chamber:	D3	Work #	Emergency #
Primary Contact:	John Doe	(402) 555-5555	(402) 123-4567
Secondary Contact:			
<p>For questions about this posting or to update information, please contact the UNL Biosafety Staff at <a href="mailto:biosafety@unl.edu">biosafety@unl.edu</a> or 402.472.4925.</p>			