Biosafety Level	BSL-1	BSL-2	BSL-3	BSL-4
Description	No Containment     Defined organisms     Unlikely to cause     disease	Containment     Moderate Risk     Disease of varying severity	High Containment     Aerosol     Transmission     Serious/Potentially lethal disease	<ul> <li>Max Containment</li> <li>"Exotic," High-Risk</li> <li>Agents</li> <li>Life-threatening</li> <li>disease</li> </ul>
Sample Organisms	E.Coli	Influenza, HIV, Lyme Disease	Tuberculosis	Ebola Virus
Pathogen Type	Agents that present minimal potential hazard to personnel & the environment.	Agents associated with human disease & pose moderate hazards to personnel & the environment.	Indigenous or exotic agents, agents that present a potential for aerosol transmission, & agents causing serious or potentially lethal disease.	Dangerous & exotic agents that pose a high risk of aerosoltransmitted laboratory infections & life-threatening disease.
Autoclave Requirements	None	None	Pass-thru autoclave with Bioseal required in laboratory room.	Pass-thru autoclave with Bioseal required in laboratory room.

Table 3. Summary of biosafety level requirements

	BIOSAFETY LEVEL			
	1	2	3	4
Isolation <sup>a</sup> of laboratory	No	No	Yes	Yes
Room sealable for decontamination	No	No	Yes	Yes
Ventilation:				
<ul><li>inward airflow</li></ul>	No	Desirable	Yes	Yes
<ul> <li>controlled ventilating system</li> </ul>	No	Desirable	Yes	Yes
<ul> <li>HEPA-filtered air exhaust</li> </ul>	No	No	Yes/No <sup>b</sup>	Yes
Double-door entry	No	No	Yes	Yes
Airlock	No	No	No	Yes
Airlock with shower	No	No	No	Yes
Anteroom	No	No	Yes	_
Anteroom with shower	No	No	Yes/No <sup>c</sup>	No
Effluent treatment	No	No	Yes/No <sup>c</sup>	Yes
Autoclave:				
— on site	No	Desirable	Yes	Yes
<ul> <li>in laboratory room</li> </ul>	No	No	Desirable	Yes
— double-ended	No	No	Desirable	Yes
Biological safety cabinets	No	Desirable	Yes	Yes
Personnel safety monitoring capability <sup>d</sup>	No	No	Desirable	Yes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Environmental and functional isolation from general traffic.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Dependent on location of exhaust (see Chapter 4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Dependent on agent(s) used in the laboratory.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> For example, window, closed-circuit television, two-way communication.

## Biosafety Level 1 – BSL1

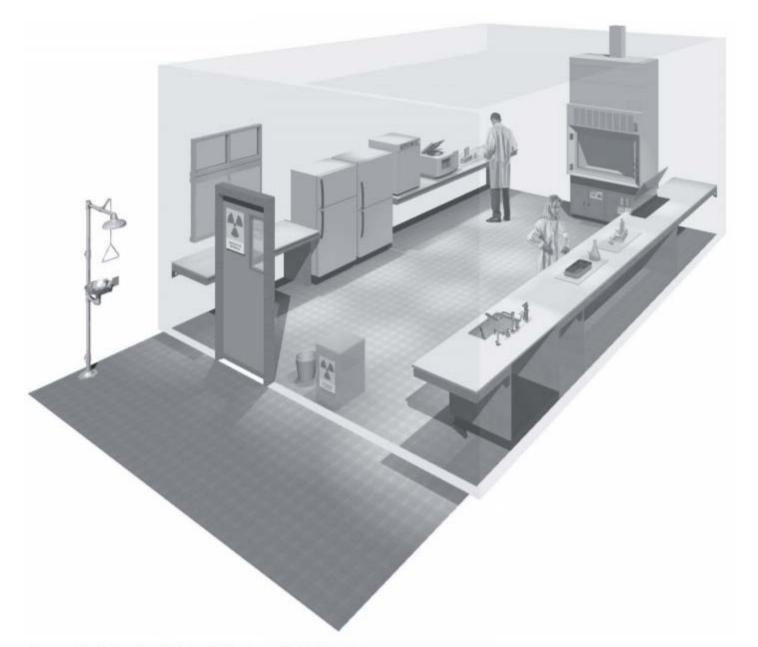


Figure 2. A typical Biosafety Level 1 laboratory (graphics kindly provided by CUH2A, Princeton, NJ, USA)

## Biosafety Level 2 – BSL2

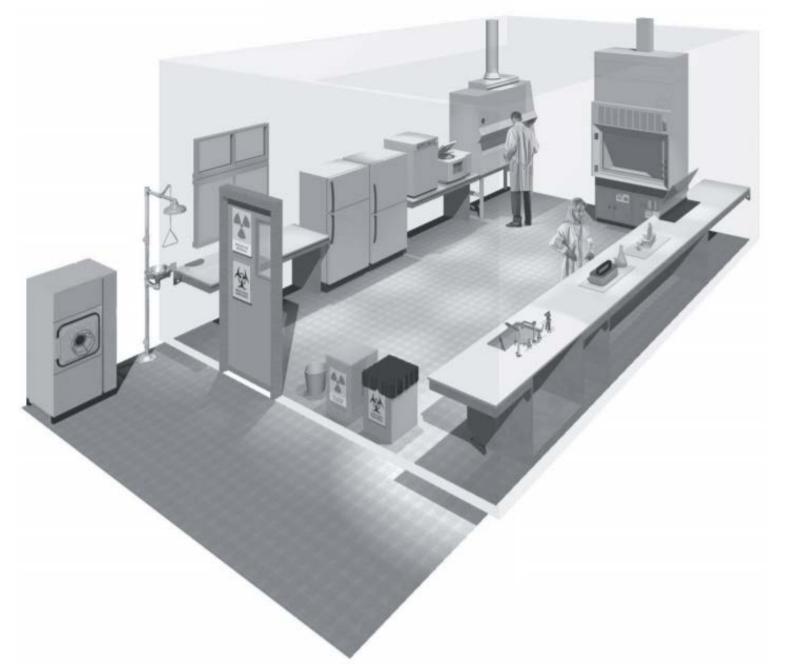


Figure 3. A typical Biosafety Level 2 laboratory

## Biosafety Level 3 – BSL3

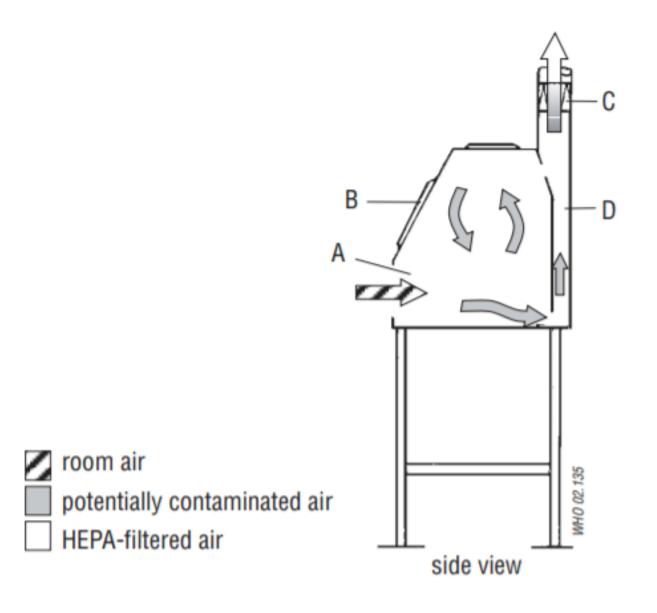


Figure 6. Schematic diagram of a Class I biological safety cabinet. A, front opening; B, sash; C, exhaust HEPA filter; D, exhaust plenum.

### Biohazard warning sign for laboratory doors



# BIOHAZARD

#### ADMITTANCE TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Biosafety Level:	
Responsible Investigator: _	
In case of emergency call: _	
Daytime phone:	_Home phone:

Authorization for entrance must be obtained from the Responsible Investigator named above.

## Biosafety Level 4 – BSL4

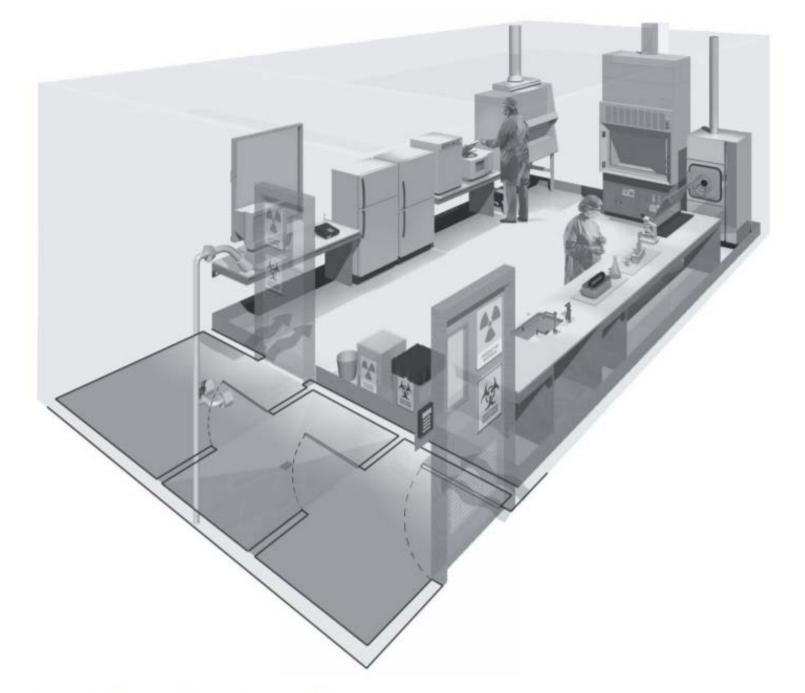


Figure 4. A typical Biosafety Level 3 laboratory





