

Risk assessment of laboratory incidents involving *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

Low risk
Inadvertent opening of the lid of an agar plate growing <i>B. pseudomallei</i> outside a biologic safety cabinet
Inadvertent sniffing of agar plate growing <i>B. pseudomallei</i> in the absence of contact between worker and bacterium
Splash event leading to visible contact of <i>B. pseudomallei</i> with gloved hand or protected body, in the absence of any evidence of aerosol
Spillage of small volume of liquid culture (<1mL) within a functioning biologic safety cabinet
Contamination of intact skin with culture
High risk
The presence of any predisposing condition without proper personal protective equipment (PPE): diabetes mellitus; chronic liver or kidney disease; alcohol abuse; long-term steroid use; hematologic malignancy; neutropenia or neutrophil dysfunction; chronic lung disease (including cystic fibrosis); thalassemia; any other form of immunosuppression
Needlestick or other penetrating injury with implement contaminated with <i>B. pseudomallei</i>
Bite or scratch by experimental animal infected with <i>B. pseudomallei</i>
Splash event leading to contamination of mouth or eyes
Generation of aerosol outside biologic safety cabinet e.g. spot tests (e.g. catalase, motility wet mount), flaming loops, cooling loops in culture media, mixing suspension with pipette, spills, pouring, spray created when using needle and syringe, sonication, centrifuge incident)

Reference:

Peacock SJ, Schweizer HP, Dance DAB, Smith TL, Gee JE, Wuthiekunan V, et al. Management of accidental laboratory exposure to *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and *B. mallei* [online report]. Emerg Infect Dis [serial on the Internet]. 2008 Jul [date cited]. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/EID/content/14/7/e2.htm>