



The University of Texas at Tyler  
Environmental Health and Safety  
**BIOLOGICAL AGENT REFERENCE SHEET**

| Characteristics   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Risk Group        | 2 - Agents that are associated with human disease which is rarely serious and for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are often available.   |
| Agent Type        | Biohazard  |
| Description       | <p><i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> is a Gram-negative rod. The bacterium is aerobic but can be a facultative anaerobe. The type b strain is known to cause disease, especially in infants and children. Researchers use an unencapsulated, no-type, species for quality control and respiratory research.</p> <p>ref: <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>. Genome. NCBI;<br/><a href="https://www.atcc.org/Products/All/43163.aspx">https://www.atcc.org/Products/All/43163.aspx</a></p> |
| Host Range        | Humans   |
| Exposure route    | Aerosol/inhalation; mucous membrane contact  |
| Incubation period | unknown  |

| Laboratory Hazards |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| High Energy        | Centrifugation, sonication, vortexing |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Sharps       |  |
| Aerosols     | Shaking, liquid culturing, pipetting, coughing, sneezing     |
| Equipment    | Can adhere to laboratory equipment from 24 hours to 120 days |
| Exposed body | oral and nasal respiratory tracts;                           |
| Notes        | unknown  |

### Laboratory Handling Guidelines

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Biosafety Level      | 2 - refer to Biosafety Manual; contact EH&S for a copy |
| Training             | EH&S Biosafety Training; Lab specific training         |
| Engineering controls | use in BSL II only                                     |
| PPE                  | Eye protection, gloves and lab coat                    |
| Waste                | Biohazard - put in red biohazard bins                  |

### Agent Viability

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Disinfection          | 10% bleach; 70% ethanol                            |
| Survival outside host | unknown  |
| Engineering controls  | BSC; lids while working with high energy equipment |
| PPE                   | Eye protection, gloves, long sleeve or lab coat    |
| Waste                 | Biohazard - put in red biohazard bins              |

### Exposure and Spill procedures

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Mucous membranes     | flush eyes, nose, mouth/throat for 15 minutes   |
| Skin contact         | Wash with soap and water for a minimum of 30 second for bare skin contact; for broken skin wash with soap and water for 15 minutes  |
| Minor (small) spills | Notify all persons present in the area. Allow aerosols to settle. While wearing protective clothing, gently cover the spill with absorbent paper towel and apply appropriate disinfectant, starting at perimeter and working towards the centre. Allow sufficient contact time before clean up. |
| Major (large) spills | Contact EH&S immediately; after-hours contact University Police   |
| Waste                | Decontaminate all wastes before disposal by incineration, chemical disinfection or steam sterilization  |

**References**

<https://www.atcc.org/Products/All/43163.aspx>