Guidelines for Principal Investigators Working with Blood, Human and Non-Human Primate Cell Lines or Other Potentially Infectious Material

The University of Utah enforces the requirements of the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030, which specifies practices to limit occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), including human and non-human primate cell lines, since exposure could result in transmission of bloodborne pathogens, which could lead to disease and/or death. This protocol is mandatory for all University of Utah employees who could reasonably be anticipated, as the result of performing their job duties, to contact blood or other potentially infectious materials. Where exposure to human blood may occur, adherence to the controls, decontamination and disposal sections of this policy is mandatory for students and visitors.

A complete description of the University of Utah policy for working with blood or OPIM can be found in the University of Utah Exposure Control Plan. In summary, that there are certain requirements under this standard that employers must meet, including:

a. Registering the work with the Institutional Biosafety Committee.
b. Providing Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) training at the time of initial assignment to duties where there may be an occupational exposure and repeated annually thereafter.
c. Develop a laboratory-specific Exposure Control Plan (ECP), which describes the risks associated with the work, PPE, Physical Containment, Waste disposal, Spill Procedures and Post exposure procedures, and a Sharps Injury Log. The ECP must be reviewed at least annually by all employees. Customizable templates are available here.
d. Maintain an accurate record of each employee's hepatitis B vaccination status. This will be maintained by Occupational Health. Instructions on how to receive the vaccination will be provided at training.

In order to ensure that employers comply with this regulation, staff members will not be authorized to work with potentially infectious material until they have completed initial BBP training or have taken refresher training within the past year. BBP or Biosafety Level 2/BBP training is available from EHS.