Spills occurring in a contained environment: Spills that are contained (i.e. in BSCs, centrifuges, etc.) are not as precarious since they are already confined to a small area. Nonetheless, care must be taken to ensure the spill remains confined and that equipment is not contaminated. The possibility of aerosol generation must also still be evaluated as this will impact the risk of exposure and degree of contamination resulting from the settling of aerosols or droplets.

Spills within a biological safety cabinet

- Leave the ventilation on
- All items within the cabinet should be disinfected (Walls and surfaces wiped down, equipment wiped down and/or autoclaved)
- Cover the spill area with paper towels or absorbent material
- Soak the spill area with an appropriate disinfectant (i.e. 10% bleach). Pour the disinfectant from the outside surface of the absorbent material towards the inside.
- Leave on for 20 to 30 minutes
- Pick up with absorbent material
- All waste should be autoclaved
- Ventilation should run 10-15 minutes
- * If the spill overflows onto the interior of the BSC contact the ORM as a more extensive decontamination may be required.

Spills within a centrifuge

- Leave lid closed and allow aerosols to settle for at least 1 hour (ensure centrifuge is off)
- Notify others in the lab not to use the centrifuge (include signage) and inform the lab supervisor
- If possible move the centrifuge or at least the rotors and buckets to a BSC
- Disinfect the centrifuge or rotors and buckets in an appropriate disinfectant, allow at least 20 to 30 minutes of contact time.
- Carefully retrieve any broken glass from inside the centrifuge using forceps and place in a sharps container.
- Drain the disinfectant.
- Thoroughly wipe down the inside of centrifuge and all parts including the lid with paper towels soaked in disinfectant
- Rinse both the rotors and the inside of the centrifuge with water if bleach was used.
- All waste should be autoclaved

Spills occurring in an open environment: Spills that occur in an open environment, in the lab or outside the lab during transport for example, are especially hazardous because of the potential for aerosol dispersion. Contact Protection Services (x 5411) when an element of command and control is required. Protection Services will also dispatch the ERT if the spill warrants it or the clean-up is beyond your capabilities.

Spills outside of a biological cabinet, in a laboratory

- Notify others.
- If an aerosol is generated (or the risk exists), hold your breath and quickly leave the lab. Close the door and post a warning sign. Evacuate the area for at least 30 minutes to allow aerosols to settle.
- Remove any contaminated clothing. For more hazardous substances place the contaminated clothing in an appropriate bag for autoclaving.
- Thoroughly wash exposed skin with soap and water.
- Assemble cleaning supplies and PPE