

Human Tissue and Fluids Handling Risks & Safety Precautions Statement

Working with human tissue and fluids carries the potential risk of exposure to infectious diseases that may be communicable to other humans. All human tissue and fluids should be treated as a potential contamination risk for certain diseases and should be handled with extreme care. Infectious agents that have been identified as possible risks include, but may not be limited to, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1, HIV-2), Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-C and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Although a relatively rare disease entity, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease has been reported to be able to remain infectious for long periods of time in fixed tissue and it may withstand standard autoclave sterilization procedures.

It is recommended that universal precautions be followed when working with human tissues and fluids irrespective of the method of tissue or fluid preparation. Investigators are encouraged to incorporate double gloving, appropriate protective garments, and face or eye protection when working with such specimens. Disposable instruments and/or an effective regimen of appropriate decontamination should be used routinely. All waste material should be considered as a biohazard. Waste should be disposed of according to your institution's policy for handling such material, which may include incineration, autoclaving and burial, or other approved methods. All laboratory staff that will be working with human specimens should be trained in the proper and approved methods of handling of such specimens.

The Mount Sinai Biorepository Cooperative (MSBC) collects fluid and tissue specimens representative of a wide variety of diagnoses. The MSBC does not guarantee that any of the donors of specimens were not exposed to or infected by other potentially transmissible infectious agents. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the recipient investigator to insure that proper safe handling techniques are employed by all laboratory staff in handling human tissue and fluids.

INVESTIGATOR, PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

I have read the Human Specimen Handling Risks & Safety Precautions Statement, and I understand the potential safety risk in handling human tissue and fluids and acknowledge these safety precautions and recommendations as essential to my safe handling of specimens.

As the Investigator, I accept full responsibility to insure that proper, safe handling techniques are employed in my laboratory when working with human specimens, and I further accept responsibility to train staff in approved and customary safe handling techniques before they work with these specimens.

I understand the MSBC distributes specimens that may have been exposed to or infected with agents such as, but not limited to, HIV (HIV-1, HIV-2), Hepatitis-B, Hepatitis-C or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and I understand that the MSBC is unable to guarantee that any of its tissue donors were not exposed or infected with such agents.

Investigator

Print Name: _____ Sign Name: _____

Date: _____