

University Occupational Health and Safety Information Sheet

NEW AND EXPECTANT WORKERS WORKING WITH BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

This information sheet summarises the known hazards which may affect the health and safety of new or expectant workers, and / or their unborn child.

	What is the risk?	How to avoid the risk	Legislation
Any biological agent of hazard groups 2, 3 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many biological agents within the three risk groups can affect the unborn child if the mother is infected during pregnancy. For certain occupations, exposure to infections is more likely, for example laboratory workers, health care, people looking after animals and dealing with animal products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek advice from the University Biological Safety Adviser prior to commencement / continuation of work. Complete a written risk assessment which will take account of the nature of the biological agent, how infection is spread, how likely contact is, and what control measures are required. If there is a known high risk of exposure to a highly infectious agent, then it will be appropriate for the pregnant worker to avoid exposure altogether. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002; Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens: Approved List of Biological Agents.
Biological agents known to cause abortion of the foetus, or physical and neurological damage. (These agents are included in hazard groups 2, 3 and 4)	Work involving potential exposure to pathogens which cause harm to the foetus should not be permitted.	See above.	See above.

For example:

Working conditions Contact with human blood and bodily fluids or substances contaminated with.
Contact with infected animals.
Contact with laboratory cultures.

Bacteria *Chlamydia psittaci* (non-avian strain, HG2), *Listeria monocytogenes* (HG2), *Shigella* (HG2 except *S. dysenteriae* Type 1 HG3*)
Viruses HIV (HG3*), *Rubella* (HG2), *Varicella zoster* (HG2), *Parvovirus* (HG2), Hep-A (HG2), Hep-B (HG3*) *derogation may apply
Protozoa *Toxoplasma gondii* (HG2)