

**APPENDIX A  
GLOSSARY**

## GLOSSARY

**Agent (disease)** – Biological agents and toxins that have been determined to have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety, to animal and plant health, or to animal or plant products.

**Animal Biosafety Level** – Minimum practices, equipment and facility requirements for research with exposed laboratory animals.

**Avian influenza** – The disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses naturally spread among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.

**Biohazard** – An agent that is biological in nature, capable of self-replication, and has the capacity to produce deleterious effects upon biological organisms (e.g., bacteria, fungi, viruses, parasites).

**Biohazardous waste** (infectious waste) – Waste contaminated with potentially infectious agents or other materials (such as blood, body fluids, and human cell lines), that are deemed a threat to public health or the environment.

**Biological Safety Level** – Classifications of safety precautions necessary to be applied in a laboratory depending on specific pathogens handled when performing laboratory procedures. Four classifications of biosafety levels (BSLs) exist. Each level contains specific recommendations for a clinical microbiology laboratory with a focus on laboratory practices, safety equipment, and facility construction. As each level progresses, it includes additional biosafety considerations from the previous level. For example, BSL-2 has kept the components of BSL-1 with further requirements, and the same applies to BSL-3 (BSL-2 with additional requirements) and BSL-4 (BSL-3 with additional requirements). The complexity of each level aligns with infectivity, disease severity, the microorganisms' ability for transmission (including exposure routes), and the nature of the laboratory work to be performed.

**Biological waste** – Any material that contains or has been contaminated by a biohazardous agent. Biological waste includes, but is not limited to: Petri dishes, surgical wraps, culture tubes, syringes, needles, blood vials, absorbent material, personal protective equipment and pipette tips.

**Biomedical** – Term relating to, or involving, biological and medical science.

**Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories** – Framework describing the use of specific practices, training, safety equipment, and specially designed buildings to protect the worker, community, and environment from an accidental exposure or unintentional release of infectious agents and toxins.

**Chronic Wasting Disease** – A fatal, neurological illness occurring in North American cervids (members of the deer family), including white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. CWD is transmitted directly through animal-to-animal contact, and indirectly through contact with objects or environment contaminated with infectious material (including saliva, urine, feces, and carcasses of CWD-infected animals).

**Containment systems** – Utilization of engineering controls either to prevent the escape of materials hazardous to health into the surrounding workplace or to prevent the contamination or degradation of compounds by the environment.

**Containment zone** – Methods used to shield or protect personnel, the immediate work environment, and the community from exposure to hazardous, radiologic, chemical, or biologic materials.

**Effluent decontamination system** – A device, or suite of devices, designed to decontaminate or sterilize biologically active or biohazardous materials in fluid and liquid waste material.

**Engineering controls** – Methods to remove a hazard or place a protective barrier between the worker and the workplace hazard, which usually involves building design elements and specialized equipment.

**Geothermal system** – A natural heat transfer within a confined volume of the Earth's crust where heat is transported from a heat source to a heat sink, usually the free surface.

**Hazardous waste** – Waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment. Hazardous waste is generated from many sources, ranging from industrial manufacturing process wastes to batteries and may come in many forms, including liquids, solids gases, and sludges.

**HEPA filtration** – HEPA, an acronym for "high efficiency particulate air", is a type of pleated mechanical air filter that can theoretically remove at least 99.97% of dust, pollen, mold, bacteria, and any airborne particles with a size of 0.3 microns ( $\mu\text{m}$ ). Particles that are larger or smaller are trapped with even higher efficiency.

**Impervious surface** – Areas which prevent or impede the infiltration of stormwater into the soil as it entered in natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious areas include, but are not limited to rooftops, sidewalks, walkways, patio areas, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, compacted gravel and soil surfaces, awnings and other fabric or plastic coverings.

**Incinerator** – A type of furnace designed for burning hazardous and other materials in a combustion chamber.

**Mechanical systems** – Set of physical components that convert an input motion and force into a desired output motion and force. Mechanical systems provide ventilation, reduce air infiltration, and maintain pressure relationships between spaces. The design, installation, and control systems of these functions are often integrated into one or more systems.

**Medical/infectious waste** – Waste that that may be contaminated by blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious material. Medical waste is a subset of wastes generated at health care facilities, such as hospitals, physicians' offices, dental practices, blood banks, and veterinary hospitals/clinics, as well as medical research facilities and laboratories.

**Mission essential** – Functions that enable the Federal government to continue to provide necessary, vital services during time of need. Employees occupying positions that are essential to agency operations in closure situations are identified and designated by activity Commanders and Directors. Among these should also be employees that have unique or technical skills that are required by organizations for extended operations.

**Morbidity** – Any departure, subjective or objective, from a state of physiological or psychological well-being.

**Virulent Newcastle disease** – A contagious and fatal viral disease affecting the respiratory, nervous and digestive systems of birds and poultry. The disease is so virulent that many birds and poultry die without showing any clinical signs.

**Necropsy** – The examination of an animal after death.

**Pasteurization** – Partial sterilization of a substance and especially a liquid (such as milk) at a temperature and for a period of exposure that destroys objectionable organisms without major chemical alteration of the substance.

**Pathogen** – Organisms (such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi) that cause disease in human beings.

**Pathology waste** – Any type of waste material derived from a human or animal body. This can include organs, human or animal tissues, surgical specimens, and bodily fluids, such as blood, removed during surgical procedures or autopsy.

**Personal protective equipment** – Specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against infectious materials.

**Photovoltaic system** – One or more solar panels combined with an inverter and other electrical and mechanical hardware that use energy from the sun to generate electricity.

**Regulated wastes** – Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps; and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

**Salmonellosis** – An infection caused by Salmonella bacteria. Salmonella live in the intestinal tracts of animals, including birds. Salmonella are usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with animal feces.

**Vivarium** – An area, usually enclosed, for keeping and raising animals or plants for observation or research.

**West Nile Virus** – The leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States; most commonly spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito.

**Zoonotic disease** – Infections caused by germs, such as viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi that are spread between humans and animals.