

## CHAPTER 15

# PROCEDURES FOR PERSONNEL BIOSECURITY

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the biosecurity procedures to be followed on entering and leaving a holding for both people and vehicles. It also addresses the management aspects to be considered when supervising biosecurity at the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC).

The protocols set out are applicable in the following situations:

- accidental discovery of a suspect
- RVL/DVO staff visiting a suspect premises
- LDCC field staff (clinical suspect investigations, surveillance teams, epidemiology/ tracing/ veterinary management) using their own vehicles
- LDCC staff (cull/surveillance teams) using a bus from the Local Biosecurity Centre (LBC)
- LDCC designated Infected Premises (IP) C&D staff, valuers, cull hauliers, meat plant personnel involved in cull slaughter
- other field visitors, such as journalists, in a controlled area.

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## 1. MANAGEMENT ASPECTS AT THE LDCC

- 1.1 The frequency of field visits should be minimised while fulfilling both the needs of epidemiology, tracing and Directive requirements.
- 1.2 Field officers should be deployed in ways which minimise the risk of spreading infection.
- 1.3 Holdings should be risk-analysed and assessed.
- 1.4 Staff who have been on infected or suspected infected holdings are considered 'dirty' and should be confined to work on infected premises only.
- 1.5 Surveillance teams should be confined to specific sectors of the controlled area and separate teams should be confined to contact premises.
- 1.6 Interchange of personnel between these groups should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- 1.7 A daily log of all personnel on field visits (of all types) should be kept and cross-checked with the log kept at the LBC.
- 1.8 All personnel engaged on field duties should be familiar with the contents of this chapter and Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre**, before commencing duties.
- 1.9 All personnel engaged in field duties should receive a training session on personnel biosecurity, either after their first briefing session or at the LBC.
- 1.10 Personnel biosecurity measures should also apply to anyone in contact with susceptible animals in a controlled area, i.e. cull hauliers, meat plant personnel involved in slaughter on IPs etc., at the start and end of each day.

## 2. ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY OF A SUSPECT WHILE ON A PREMISES FOR OTHER REASONS

- 2.1 There is a legal obligation to report findings to the DVO/Gardai (Notification of a Class A Disease). Do this as soon as possible, preferably from the suspect site.
- 2.2 Remain on site until contacted by DVO.
- 2.3 Leave personal vehicle on site.
- 2.4 If it is necessary to leave the premises for notification or other purposes **do not go to a place associated with another holding**. Go to public phone box, your own dwelling or an urban B&B.
- 2.5 When given leave to vacate the premises by the DVO, proceed to a location where you can shower fully (fingernails and hair should be thoroughly washed and clothes changed).
- 2.6 Place used 'contaminated' clothes in a plastic bag for C&D/burning.
- 2.7 The vehicle used must undergo C&D.

### 3. RVL/DVO STAFF VISITING SUSPECT PREMISES (USING PERSONAL VEHICLE)

#### 3.1 The vehicle

- a) Ensure that the exterior and interior of your vehicle are clean prior to departure. Remove all extraneous equipment and rubbish from the vehicle.
- b) 'Clean' and 'dirty' areas of your vehicle must be established e.g. back seat 'clean', boot of vehicle 'dirty'. If your vehicle has both areas within the same airspace (e.g. estate or jeep), designate areas of the vehicle furthest apart.
- c) Cover both 'clean' and 'dirty' areas with disposable plastic sheets.
- d) Cover the driver **and** passenger seat and foot well of the vehicle in a similar fashion (in case you have to travel to farm fragments with passengers).
- e) Before leaving ensure your vehicle contains sufficient of the items in **LIST 1** below.

#### LIST 1

- Personal protective clothing (waterproofs + waterproof sou'wester hat, disposable (Tyvek) over-suits, over-boots, gloves, wellingtons, tight fitting facemasks)
  - Water container and water supply
  - Disinfectant (see list of Approved Disinfectants)
  - Equipment required for job (e.g. sampling, culling, thermometers, sharps container)
  - Mobile phone, **charged**, in zip-locked double plastic bags
  - Autoclavable bags and ties for transport/disposal of clothing/equipment
  - Brushes and buckets for disinfection purposes
  - Large clean plastic sheets
  - Change of ordinary clothes in a clean plastic bag
  - Notebook (disinfectable) and pencils
- f) Store all clean/unused equipment (suits, sampling gear etc) in the 'clean' area.
  - g) **Do not move anything from the 'dirty' area to the 'clean' area of the vehicle.**
  - h) On return to the RVL/DVO, clean and disinfect the interior of the vehicle paying particular attention to personal contact points (i.e. steering wheel, foot pedals) and the 'dirty' area. Use a power hose or car wash to clean the exterior of the vehicle.

### 3.2 The person

- a) You will be dressed in normal clothes – therefore personal protective clothing **must** be worn on the farm (see **LIST 2** below).

#### LIST 2

- Disposable (Tyvek) over-suit (legs inside wellingtons)
- Wellingtons
- Waterproof suit – keep waterproof trouser legs over wellingtons
- Extra over-suit outside waterproof one (legs outside wellingtons)
- Waterproof hat (sou'wester)
- Over-boots outside wellingtons
- Gloves (double gloves to be worn, bring extra supply onto farm)
- Face mask, tight fitting
- Ear protection if pig farm

### 3.3 Procedure for ENTRY ONTO a premises

- a) Park the **vehicle** at a suitable point (disinfection point) near the entrance to the farm premises. Do not drive into the yard.
- b) **Take** onto the farm only what is required for your visit. Going back to the vehicle will require a complete change of clothing if no one is available outside the farm.
- c) Remove any **outer clothing** and take only essential items (e.g. leave keys, wallets, rings etc. in the car).
- d) Put on **protective clothing (LIST 2)** over normal clothes.
- e) Spread a clean plastic sheet on the ground at a **CLEAN POINT outside the farm gate** for changing when leaving the farm (secure with something heavy e.g. stones).
- f) **Leave** your water supply and sufficient disinfectant, bucket, brush, autoclavable bags, change of shoes/clothes etc. at this point.
- g) Just **inside the farm gate** (farm side) place a bucket, disinfectant, water (if not available on farm) and a supply of clean autoclavable bags and ties (to disinfect anything that has to be taken off farm).

### 3.4 Procedure for EXIT FROM a premises

- a) It is important to minimise the number of potentially infected items taken off the farm. Therefore **leave** what you can with the farmer for safe disposal by burning – **not** for inclusion with domestic waste.
- b) **Inside the farm gate**, where you left the bucket, disinfectant and bags, disinfect all equipment/items that require to be taken off farm (0.2% citric acid is useful for this purpose).

- c) Place all **consumables** used on the farm in one of the autoclavable bags and seal. Sharps should be placed in the sharps container you brought onto the farm. **Leave** bags and sharps container on the farm if possible. If this is not possible thoroughly disinfect the outside of these items prior to removal off farm to your designated 'clean point'.
- d) Also disinfect the outside of the bag that held the **mobile phone**.
- e) Discard your first layer of **protective clothing** at the farm side of the farm gate in the following order: (over-boots, outer over-suit, facemask, gloves (outer pair) . Place these in an autoclavable bag, seal and **leave behind with the farmer** for disposal. If this is not possible thoroughly disinfect the outside of the bag prior to removal off farm to your designated 'clean point'.
- f) Proceed to your clean point outside the farm gate. **Only move cleaned and disinfected gear onto it**. Disinfect your waterproof clothing and wellingtons completely (pay particular attention to soles of wellingtons) using plenty of disinfectant and a brush.
- g) Remove cleaned **wellingtons** and place in a clean leak-proof plastic bag and secure.
- h) Remove **waterproof clothing** (including sou'wester hat) and immerse in disinfectant in a bucket. Place in clean leak-proof bag and secure.
- i) Wash and disinfect **hands, arms and face** paying special attention to fingernails.
- j) **Disinfect** 'clean area' plastic sheet. Place in an autoclavable bag and seal it.
- k) Remove remaining **over-suit**, (if possible change clothes), put on shoes. Place all discarded items in a clean autoclavable bag and seal.
- l) Finally wash and disinfect your **hands** again.
- m) Proceed to the **vehicle**. To avoid contamination of the vehicle's interior, ensure that everything that you have taken off the farm is secured in sealed leak-proof plastic bags. Place in the 'dirty' area of the vehicle.
- n) Arrange to hand over the laboratory **samples** to a 'clean' person at designated location (it is advisable NOT to return to the RVL/DVO prior to showering and having a complete change of clothes).
- o) If you **do not own susceptible animals** return home directly, change clothes and shower as below.
- p) If you **do own susceptible animals** proceed to a B&B or some other suitable place, shower and change clothes.
- q) Safely dispose of **disposable equipment** and decontaminate **protective clothing** by autoclaving if possible.
- r) Disinfect **car and other equipment** as per code of practice RVL/DVO.

- s) Decontaminate **personal clothes** by autoclaving (115°C for 30mins) followed by laundering – hot wash (80°C standard detergent wash). **NB. Dry cleaning will not inactivate the FMD virus.**
- t) **Shower** thoroughly; pay special attention to fingernails and hair.
- u) **Do not attend susceptible animals** for a minimum of 3 days.

## 4. USING PERSONAL VEHICLE IN PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ZONES (WHEN A LOCAL BIOSECURITY CENTRE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED)

### 4.1 The vehicle

- a) Ensure that the exterior and interior of your vehicle are clean prior to departure. Remove all extraneous equipment and rubbish from the vehicle.
- b) ‘Clean’ and ‘dirty’ areas of your vehicle must be established e.g. back seat ‘clean’, boot of vehicle ‘dirty’. If your vehicle has both areas within the same airspace (e.g. estate or jeep) designate areas of the vehicle furthest apart.
- c) Cover both ‘clean’ and ‘dirty’ areas with disposable plastic sheets.
- d) Cover the driver AND passenger seat and foot well of the vehicle in a similar fashion (in case you have to travel to farm fragments with passengers).
- e) Before leaving ensure your vehicle contains sufficient of the items in **LIST 1** below.

#### LIST 1

- Personal protective clothing (waterproofs + waterproof sou’wester hat, disposable (Tyvek) over-suits, over-boots, gloves, wellingtons, tight fitting facemasks)
  - Water container and water supply
  - Disinfectant (see list of Approved Disinfectants)
  - Equipment required for job (sampling, culling, thermometers, sharps container etc)
  - Mobile phone, **charged**, in zip-locked double plastic bags
  - Autoclavable bags and ties for transport/disposal of clothing/equipment
  - Brushes and buckets for disinfection purposes
  - Large clean plastic sheets
  - Change of ordinary clothes in a clean plastic bag
  - Notebook (disinfectable) and pencils
- f) Store all clean/unused equipment (suits, sampling gear etc) in the ‘clean’ area.

- g) **Do not move anything from the ‘dirty’ area to the ‘clean’ area of the vehicle.**
- h) On return to the LBC the vehicle must be handed over to the LBC C&D team for thorough C&D.

#### 4.2 The person

- a) On arrival at the LBC you **must change out of all civilian clothes** (including watches, jewellery, shoes etc). Place in plastic bag(s) and identify with label or mark. Leave in dressing room.
- b) Dress as per **LIST 3** below.

##### LIST 3

- Tee shirt, briefs, socks (supplied by LBC)
  - tyvek suits
  - wellingtons (legs of tyvek suits inside these)
  - waterproof suit (legs outside wellingtons)
  - tyvek suits (legs over wellingtons also)
  - disposable over-boots over wellingtons
  - waterproof sou’wester hat
- c) You will be dressed as outlined in **LIST 3**, however you will still need to bring additional supplies of protective gear, so before leaving ensure your vehicle contains sufficient of the items in **LIST 1** above.

#### 4.3 Procedure for ENTRY ONTO a premises

- a) Park vehicle at a suitable point (disinfection point) near the entrance to the farm premises. Do not drive into the yard.
- b) Take onto the farm only what is required for your visit. Going back to the vehicle will require a complete change of clothing if no one is available outside the farm.
- c) Leave **car keys** in the car (not in the ignition!).
- d) Because you dressed at the LBC, you will already be wearing sufficient **protective clothing** for the first visit.
- e) Spread a clean plastic sheet on the ground at a ‘clean point’ **outside the farm gate** for changing etc. when leaving the farm. Secure with something heavy, e.g. stones.
- f) Leave your water supply and sufficient disinfectant, bucket, brush, autoclavable bags, a supply of clean suits, over-boots at this point.
- g) **Just inside the farm gate**, on the farm side, place a bucket, disinfectant, water (if not available on farm) and a supply of clean autoclavable bags and ties to disinfect anything that has to be taken off farm.

#### 4.4 Procedure for EXIT FROM a premises

- a) It is important to take off the farm as few potentially infected items as possible. Therefore **leave** what you can with the farmer for safe disposal by burning – **not** for inclusion with domestic waste.
- b) At the **farm side of the gate**, where you left the bucket, disinfectant and bags, **disinfect** all equipment/items that require to be taken off farm (0.2% citric acid is useful for this purpose).
- c) Place all **consumables** used on the farm in one of the autoclavable bags and seal. Sharps should be placed in the sharps container you brought onto the farm. **Leave** bags and sharps container on the farm if possible. If this is not possible thoroughly disinfect the outside of these items prior to removal off farm to your designated 'clean point'.
- d) Also disinfect the outside of the bag that held the **mobile phone**.
- e) Discard your first layer of **protective clothing** at the farm side of the farm gate in the following order: over-boots, 2 outer over-suits, facemask, and outer pair of gloves at farm gate (farm side). Place these in an autoclavable bag, seal and **leave behind with the farmer** for disposal. If this is not possible thoroughly disinfect the outside of the bag prior to removal off farm to your designated 'clean point'.
- f) Proceed to your 'clean point' **outside the farm gate. Only move cleaned and disinfected gear onto it.** Disinfect your waterproof clothing and wellingtons completely (pay particular attention to soles of wellingtons) using plenty of disinfectant and a brush.
- g) Remove cleaned **wellingtons** and place in a clean leak-proof plastic bag and secure.
- h) Remove **waterproof clothing** (including sou'wester hat) and immerse in disinfectant in bucket. Place in clean leak-proof bag and secure.
- i) Wash and disinfect **hands, arms and face**, paying special attention to fingernails.
- j) Disinfect 'clean area' **plastic sheet**. Place in an autoclavable bag and seal it.
- k) For returning to the LBC you should have on only, underclothes, 2 tyvek suits, clean over-boots on top of socks. All '**contaminated**' material (waterproofs, wellingtons etc.) should be safely secured in bags.
- l) Finally wash and disinfect your **hands** again.
- m) Proceed to the **vehicle**. To avoid contamination of the vehicle's interior, ensure that everything that you have taken off the farm is secured in sealed leak-proof plastic bags. Place in the 'dirty' area of the vehicle.
- n) On return to the LBC follow the procedures for field staff outlined in Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre**.

#### 4.5 Visiting FRAGMENTS of the same farm

- a) Follow the instructions given in 4.3 above.
- b) On leaving the main farm (first fragment), at 'clean point' thoroughly disinfect **waterproofs and sou'wester hat and wellingtons**.
- c) Disinfect 'clean area' **plastic sheet** and place in an autoclavable bag and seal it.
- d) Wash and disinfect **hands, arms and face**, paying special attention to fingernails.
- e) On **arrival** at the second fragment of the same farm, suit-up again with **2 new tyvek suits (over waterproofs) and over-boots**.
- f) To avoid further spread of disease (your vehicle and its wheels are 'clean') let the **farmer** travel with you to the fragment. Before letting him or her into the car, ensure that his or her wellingtons are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Supply him or her with 2 tyvek suits and over-boots and ensure he or she wears them. When **leaving** the fragment the farmer can remove the suits, over-boots and disinfect wellingtons. Deal with the farmer's disposables in the same way as your own.
- g) If **proceeding to further fragments** the same procedure should be adopted at each fragment.
- h) At the **last fragment** follow the exit sequence described in 4.4. When returning to the LBC you should only be wearing underclothes, 2 tyvek suits and clean over-boots on top of socks. All 'contaminated' material (waterproofs, wellingtons etc.) should be safely secured in bags in a designated part of the vehicle.
- i) On return to the LBC follow the procedures for field staff outlined in Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre**.

## 5. USING THE LBC BUS IN PROTECTION AND SURVEILLANCE ZONES

### 5.1 The vehicle

- a) If operating from an LBC a specially designated DAF bus may be supplied for transport of teams of people (e.g. cull team).
- b) LBC staff will be responsible for C&D of the vehicle.
- c) Before leaving ensure the bus contains sufficient of the items in **LIST 1** below.

#### LIST 1

- Personal protective clothing (waterproofs + waterproof sou'wester hat, disposable (Tyvek) over-suits, over-boots, gloves, wellingtons, tight fitting facemasks)
- Water container and water supply
- Disinfectant (see list of Approved Disinfectants)
- Equipment required for job (sampling, culling, thermometers, sharps container etc)
- Mobile phone, **charged**, in zip-locked double plastic bags
- Autoclavable bags and ties for transport/disposal of clothing/equipment
- Brushes and buckets for disinfection purposes
- Large clean plastic sheets
- Change of ordinary clothes in a clean plastic bag
- Notebook (disinfectable) and pencils

### 5.2 The person

- a) On arrival at the LBC you **must** change out of all civilian clothes, including watches, jewellery, shoes etc. Place in plastic bags and identify with label or mark. Leave in dressing room.
- b) Dress as per **LIST 3** below.

#### LIST 3

- Tee shirt, briefs, socks (supplied by LBC)
  - 2 tyvek suits
  - wellingtons (legs of tyvek suits inside these)
  - waterproof suit (legs outside wellingtons)
  - 2 tyvek suits (legs over wellingtons also)
  - disposable over-boots over wellingtons
  - waterproof sou'wester hat
- c) You will be dressed as outlined in **LIST 3**, however you will still need to bring additional supplies of protective gear, so before leaving ensure the bus contains sufficient of the items in **LIST 1** above.

### 5.3 Procedure for ENTRY ONTO a premises

- a) **Stop/park** vehicle at a suitable disinfection point near the entrance to the farm premises. Do not drive into the yard.
- b) **Take** onto the farm only what is required for your visit – remember that going back to the vehicle will require a complete change of clothing if no one is available outside the farm. NB. The LBC bus may not remain at the holding.
- c) Because you dressed at the LBC you will already be wearing sufficient **protective clothing** for the first visit.
- d) Spread a clean plastic sheet on the ground at a ‘clean point’ **outside the farm gate** for changing etc. when leaving the farm and secure with something heavy, e.g. stones. At the ‘clean point’ leave a water supply and sufficient disinfectant, bucket, brush, autoclavable bags, a supply of clean suits, over-boots.
- e) **Just inside the farm gate** on the farm side place a bucket, disinfectant, water (if not available on farm) and a supply of clean autoclavable bags and ties to disinfect anything that has to be taken off farm.
- f) All team members entering the farm must do so through the ‘clean point’.

### 5.4 Procedure for EXIT FROM a premises

- a) When leaving the farm, at the **farm side of the gate** discard over-boots, 2 outer suits, facemask and outer gloves.
- b) At the ‘clean point’ thoroughly disinfect **waterproofs, sou’wester hat and wellingtons.**
- c) Wash and disinfect **hands, arms and face** paying special attention to fingernails.
- d) The last person should disinfect the ‘clean point’ **plastic sheet** and place it in an autoclavable bag, seal the bag and place into the designated area of the bus.
- e) If proceeding to **another kill or a fragment** of the same farm suit-up again with 2 new tyvek suits (over waterproofs) and over-boots, gloves (double pair), facemask.
- f) If work is **complete for the day** proceed **directly** to the bus from the ‘clean point’.
- g) On return to the LBC follow the procedures for field staff outlined in the Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre.**