McMaster University
Medical Monitoring Program Information Sheet

The purpose of this document is to provide information on an agent/virus in order for all McMaster University staff and students to make an informed decision about entering our medical monitoring program.

Please review this document, print your name, sign and date the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement and then provide it to your supervisor.

**Bacillus cereus**

The following summary is provided by the McMaster Biosafety Office.

For a complete copy of the excerpted text below please refer to:

SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DISINFECTANTS: Spores are relatively resistant; inactivated by 2% glutaraldehyde, 5% sodium hypochlorite; prolonged contact times required. Spores destroyed by heating at 100°C for 10 min; ionizing radiation destroys spores with 540 krad. Spores are relatively resistant to heat and dessication; survive cooking

CONTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS: Biosafety level 2 practices, containment equipment and facilities for activities involving clinical specimens and cultures. Laboratory coat; gloves when skin contact with infectious materials is unavoidable. Good personal hygiene and frequent handwashing

The following summary is provided by Employee Health Services.

For a complete copy of the excerpted text below please refer to:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacillus_cereus

**Facts**

*Bacillus cereus* is an endemic, soil-dwelling, Gram-positive, rod-shaped, beta hemolytic bacterium. Some strains are harmful to humans and cause foodborne illness, while other strains can be beneficial as probiotics for animals.

**Symptoms**

The foodborne illness is characterized by two forms: an emetic form with severe nausea and vomiting and a diarrheal form with abdominal cramps and diarrhea; both forms are usually mild
and self-limiting (24 hrs). Immunocompromised individuals are susceptible to bacteremia, endocarditis, meningitis, pneumonia; also associated with posttraumatic endophthalmitis (ocular infection - rare). The incubation period for the emetic form ranges from 1-6 hours, the average being 4 hours; and the diarrheal form range from 6-24 hours, the average being 17 hours.

**Diagnosis**
Monitor for symptoms and confirm by identification of organism in suspected food and feces of patients.

**Treatment**
Supportive therapy. There is no immunization available.

---

**Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (“MUA”) for BSL2 Medical Monitoring Program**

**Note:** This MUA is to be signed by the employee/student and supervisor, filed and kept by the supervisor. It will be reviewed during the annual biosafety audit by the McMaster Biosafety office.

The employee/student named below acknowledges and agrees as follows:

- I have read and understand all of the information in this Medical Monitoring Information Sheet provided jointly by the McMaster Biosafety Office and Employee Health Services and reviewed the biologically hazardous agent to which I have potential exposure.  
  **Initial here**

- I will report a pregnancy or a compromised immune system (due to medication {steroid or other immunosuppressive therapy}, organ transplant, chemotherapy or radiation therapy, HIV infection etc.) to my supervisor and **X (graduate students)** or Employee Health Services Occupational Health Nurse at ext. 20310 (faculty and staff)  **Initial here**

- I will report an exposure to a biological agent to my supervisor immediately and complete a McMaster incident/accident report.  **Initial here**

- I will report any illness that resembles the symptoms listed in this Medical Monitoring Information Sheet to my supervisor.  **Initial here**

- I recognize my responsibility to observe all safety practices and precautions while present in the BSL2 laboratory.  **Initial here**

- I am aware of, and wish to participate in, the medical monitoring program (RMM #605) for this biological level 2 agent. Please circle: [yes]  [no]  **Initial here**