Biosafety Level Classification

Biosafety levels are levels of risk assigned by the CDC to inform the general population and health care workers of the risks of biological infections.

These infectious agents could be used in a bioterrorism attack. Biosafety level 4 would be of the most concern.

BIOSAFETY LEVELS:

- **Biosafety level 1** applies to agents that do not ordinarily cause human disease.
- **Biosafety level 2** is for agents that can cause human disease, but whose potential for transmission is limited.
- **Biosafety level 3** applies to agents that may be transmitted by the respiratory route, which can cause serious infection.
- **Biosafety level 4** is used for the *diagnosis* (learning what is wrong) of agents that pose a high risk of life-threatening disease, which may be transmitted by the aerosol route and for which there is no vaccine or therapy.

Most of this information is courtesy of US Government's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In times of an emergency, much of this material may not apply when it comes to specialized care and testing. These are guidelines to help you when that care is not available.

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