

Aseptic Techniques:

Rationale: When working with biological agents, it is imperative that none of the experimental materials (cell flasks, culture plates, media bottles, pipettes, etc.) become contaminated. In order to reduce the risk of contamination, aseptic techniques must be used when working with any experimental materials.

General:

1. **ALWAYS** wear gloves!!
2. Do not open any container containing cells, media, virus, etc., outside of the hood.
3. Any work performed in the hood must be done past the grate at the front.
4. Only uncover materials when you are ready to remove/dispense media, cells, virus, etc. from/into the container. Recover, immediately.
5. It is not necessary to screw caps all the way down after the material has been removed/deposited as long as the cap is completely covering the opening. In fact, this should be postponed until the pipette has been properly disposed of and both hands are free.
6. Do not, at any time, hold or pass any part of your body over an open container or the interior of a container lid/cap.
7. Do not set down a cap or lid anywhere in the hood if at all possible. If you must set down a cap or lid, place it on its side. Placing a cap or lid with the opening against the hood or facing up could contaminate it.
8. Do not touch the inside of any experimental material with any part of your body or other potentially contaminated item.
9. If at any time, the item becomes contaminated or there is even the slightest possibility it has become contaminated, it must be discarded.

Pipettes:

1. Never stick your fingers into the pipette can. To remove a pipette gently shake the can so that the ends of the pipettes are exposed.
2. When removing a pipette, use one finger to slide the pipette out from the other and grasp it touching only the top of the pipette.
3. If at any time the pipette comes in contact with anything other than the liquid to be removed/added, or the inside of the container it must be discarded.