

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES STEM CELL PROCEDURES FOR PREVENTING AND ELIMINATING CONTAMINATION

Preventing contaminations

1. Follow the Children's Hospital Los Angeles Stem Cell Core cell handling and biosafety cabinet operating procedures at all times.
2. Consult with the Children's Hospital Los Angeles Stem Cell Core Staff if you are acquiring frequent contaminations and require assistance preventing them (please note we do not provide assistance with eliminating mycoplasma).
3. Avoid growing cells long term with antibiotics as they often mask the presence of contaminations rather than preventing them. Do not put too much faith in the use of antibiotics to protect cell cultures.
4. Thoroughly decontaminate all areas where cells are being kept on a regular basis with 70% alcohol.
5. Take extra care to ensure pipetting equipment does not make contact with any item in the biosafety cabinet other than the cells and culture media.
6. Ensure all reagents used for cell culture and experimentation are sterile.
7. Do not cross contaminate cells or media solutions through sloppy cell handling and pipetting procedures.
8. Work carefully and cleanly at all times.
9. The biosafety cabinet provides a clean working environment but it is not sterile and will not protect from all contaminations. Great care must be taken at all times, even when working in biosafety cabinets.

Regulations for dealing with contaminations at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles Stem Cell Core

1. All contaminated cells and the reagents that have been used to maintain those cells must be discarded or removed from the Children's Hospital Los Angeles Stem Cell Core.
2. Contaminated dishes should be sterilized using bleach for 15 minutes then disposed of via a biosafety bin.
3. The Children's Hospital Los Angeles Stem Cell Core Staff **must** be informed of all contamination so they may perform a proper decontamination of the area.

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES STEM CELL CORE IS A MYCOPLASMA FREE ZONE. DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WORK WITH CELLS IF YOU BELIEVE THEY HAVE MYCOPLASMA.
