

From the Acting Chief Medical Officer  
Dr Elizabeth Mitchell



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

**HSS(MD) 26/2006**

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To: Chief Executives of HSS Trusts for distribution to:  
Laboratory Managers  
Consultant Microbiologists  
Clinical Directors  
Risk Managers  
Control of Infection Teams  
Occupational Health Services

NI Public Health Laboratory, BCH  
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Directors of Public Health  
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Professor R Hayes, Head of Medical and Dental School, QUB  
Chief Veterinary Officer, DARD  
Chief Scientific Officer, DARD  
CE Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 26/2006  
Date: 27 July 2006

Dear Colleague

## **BIOLOGICAL AGENTS: MANAGING THE RISKS IN LABORATORIES AND HEALTHCARE PREMISES**

The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) has produced the above guidance. It is aimed for those who have responsibility for assessing and managing the risks from exposure to biological agents at work in a laboratory, healthcare or animal care setting.

Whilst the guidance is based on health and safety regulations in Great Britain it is equally applicable to the Northern Ireland regulations specifically the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (NI) 2003 (COSHH) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (NI) 2000.

The guidance covers work in laboratories where biological agents are handled as well as work with infected patients and animals. The guidance can be accessed from the Department of Health website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/biologagents.pdf> and through a link from the Northern Ireland Health and Safety Executive website [http://www.hseni.gov.uk/info-guide.cfm?Folder\\_ID=51&%20Uploaded\\_In=0&%20Parent\\_Id=37](http://www.hseni.gov.uk/info-guide.cfm?Folder_ID=51&%20Uploaded_In=0&%20Parent_Id=37)

Queries relating to the guidance should be directed to:  
Dr D Skan, Employment Medical Advisory Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Avenue House,  
42-44 Rosemary Street, Belfast BT1 1QE, tel 028 90 408004, fax 028 90 408006, email [delia.skan@detini.gov.uk](mailto:delia.skan@detini.gov.uk) .

Yours sincerely

**Dr Elizabeth Mitchell  
Chief Medical Officer (Acting)**

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c.c. Dr Skan  
Dr Doherty  
Mr Elliott  
Mr Charles  
Dr McCarthy  
Mr Galloway