ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY | BIOLOGICAL SAFETY

**Risk Assessment Questions for Working with Human Blood:**

**A Year into the COVID Pandemic**

1. Does the planned work involve the use of serum, plasma, and/or PBMCs?
2. Can the sample be fixed or inactivated (heat, chemical, etc.) before you manipulate it?
3. Can the samples be tested directly via RT-PCR (or comparable) for the presence of SARS-CoV-2?
4. What are the demographics of the subjects the samples are collected from:
   1. Have they been tested (with a nasal pharyngeal swab & RT-PCR) for COVID within 72 hours of the blood draw?
   2. Have they had COVID more than 3 months before the blood draw?
      1. Were they hospitalized?
      2. Were they in the ICU?
   3. Did they have any symptoms of COVID the day the blood was drawn?
   4. Had they been around anyone known to have COVID without wearing protective PPE the two weeks before the blood draw?
   5. Do they have an immune disorder which may affect their ability to make antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus?
   6. Have they been vaccinated?
      1. When?
   7. Have they been tested for antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus within the month before the blood was drawn?
5. What procedures will be done with the blood?
   1. Will aerosols be generated? (i.e. pipetting, mixing, etc. generate aerosols)
   2. Cell sorting of PBMCs?
6. What volume will be manipulated?
7. Can all of the manipulations be done in a certified BSC?
   1. Preferably in a tissue culture room with a door, with no other workers in the room at the time these samples are being processed
8. Do you have access to a BSL2+ facility?

Please consult the Biological Safety Division ([biosafety.program@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:biosafety.program@cuanschutz.edu) )for the final determination of how you should handle the blood specimens.