Online survey about 'Laboratory Acquired Infections' (LAIs) for the attention of the personnel

Dear Madam, Sir

On request of the Flemish authorities, the SBB (the Biosafety and Biotechnology Unit of the Scientific Institute of Public Health) has developed a survey in the interest of mapping and evaluating the risk for "laboratory-acquired infections" (LAIs) related to bio-incidents with pathogenic organisms.

Bio-incidents are defined as all irregularities that occur while handling these organisms, caused by technical failure or human errors or simply by accident.

The term laboratory-acquired infections" (LAIs) refers to all direct or indirect human infections with or without the onset of symptoms following exposure to pathogenic organisms (genetically modified or not) in the laboratory.

There are many scientific publications on bio-incidents and LAIs. However, very few data are available regarding the incidence in Belgium & Flanders. Our aim is to obtain more information about this issue and the possible underlying causes.

Completing this survey happens anonymously and will only take about 15 minutes.

Thank you very much for your participation

A report of this survey will be sent to you

More information on biosafety and LAIs can be found on our website (http://www.biosafety.be).

Dienst Bioveiligheid en Biotechnologie | Service Biosécurité et Biotechnologie

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controle.meta@wiv-isp.be

There are 43 questions in this survey
1. In which type of organization are you employed? *

Please choose only one of the following:

- Public institution or university
- Private company
2 [2]2. How would you classify the sector/branch of industry that you work in? (Multiple answers possible) *
Please choose all that apply:
- R&D
- Diagnostics (medical – veterinary)
- Quality Control (environmental samples, food samples, pharmaceuticals)
- Production
- Education

3 [3]3. The focus of your work is mainly on: *
Please choose only one of the following:
- (Bio)medical (Human)
- Veterinary (Animals)
- Agricultural, ornamental plant cultivation, agrobiotechnology (Plants)

4 [4]4. You are employed as:
(Multiple answers possible)
Please choose all that apply:
- Lab technician
- Researcher
- Short-term stagiair or student (< 1 month)
- Long-term stagiair or student (> 1 month)
- Animal caretaker
- Andere:

5 [5new]5. In which type of laboratory do you work? (Multiple answers possible) *
Please choose all that apply:
- L1, lab of containment level 1
- L2, lab of containment level 2
- L3, lab of containment level 3
- A1, animal facility of containment level 1
- A2, animal facility of containment level 2
- A3, animal facility of containment level 3
- G1, greenhouse of containment level 1
- G2, greenhouse of containment level 2
- G3, greenhouse of containment level 3
- I don't know
- Other:

6 [6]6. Which type of activities are you mainly doing? (Multiple answers possible) *
Please choose all that apply:
- Cell culture
- Animal care
- In vivo research (small and large animals)
- Microbiology
- Microscopy
- Education (practical lessons)
- Serology or hematology
- TSE (diagnostics) TSE: Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies
7 [7 new]Which manipulation/activity that you perform yourself do you consider the most risky for your health? Please also indicate which (micro-)organism is involved in this manipulation/activity. (eg injection of mice with lentiviral vectors, or culturing Mycobacterium tuberculosis, etc...) *

Please write your answer here:

8 [8 new]9. Are you aware of any LAI’s (laboratory acquired infections, resulting from a contamination of 1 or more employees (including yourself) in your organization over the last 5 years? *

Please choose only one of the following:

☐ Yes
☐ No

9 [8.1]How many LAI’s are you aware of? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° (8.1.NAOK = "1")

Please write your answer here:

10 [8.2 LAI1 NEW]Which organisms or biologic agents were involved in the LAI(s)? (bv. Trypanosoma brucei gambiense) *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° (8.2.NAOK = "1")

Please write your answer(s) here:

LAI 1

11 [8.2 LAI2 NEW]Which organisms were involved in the LAI(s)? (eg. Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, eg. influenza virus,...) *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° (8.2.NAOK = "2")

Please write your answer(s) here:

LAI 1

LAI 2

12 [8.2 LAI3 NEW]Which organisms were involved in the LAI(s)? (eg. Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, eg. influenza virus,...) *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° (8.2.NAOK = "3")
13 [8.2 LAI4 NEW] Which organisms were involved in the LAI(s)? (eg. Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, eg. influenza virus, ...) *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° ( (8.1.NAOK == "4"))

Please write your answer(s) here:

LAI 1
LAI 2
LAI 3
LAI 4

14 [8.2 LAI5 NEW] Which organisms were involved in the LAI(s)? (eg. Trypanosoma brucei gambiense, eg. influenza virus, ...) *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° ( (8.1.NAOK >= "5"))

Please write your answer(s) here:

LAI 1
LAI 2
LAI 3
LAI 4
LAI 5

If you have knowledge of more than 5 LAI(s), please indicate the 5 most recent ones (over the last 5 years).

15 [8.3 LAI1 new] Which types of biologic agents were involved? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° ( (8.1.NAOK == "1"))

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

We werd of besmet? // Who was contaminated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory technician</th>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Stagiair / student for short period (&lt;1 month)</th>
<th>Stagiair / student for longer period (&gt;1 month)</th>
<th>Animal care taker</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>L1 laboratory of containment level 1</th>
<th>L2 laboratory of containment level 2</th>
<th>L3 laboratory of containment level 3</th>
<th>A1, animal facility of containment level 1</th>
<th>A2, animal facility of containment level 2</th>
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16 [8.3 LAI2 new] *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° ( (8.1.NAOK == "2"))

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

We werd of besmet? // Who was contaminated?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stagiair / student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory technician</td>
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<td>LAI 4</td>
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**17 [8.3 LAI3 new]** *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

"(8.3.LAI3 new = "3")"

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

**We were contaminated? // Who was contaminated?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory technician</th>
<th>Stagiair / student for short period (&lt;1 month)</th>
<th>for longer period (&gt;1 month)</th>
<th>Animal care taker</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>L1, laboratory of containment level 1</th>
<th>L2, laboratory of containment level 2</th>
<th>L3, laboratory of containment level 3</th>
<th>A1, animal facility of containment level 1</th>
<th>A2, animal facility of containment level 2</th>
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**18 [8.3 LAI4 new]** *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

"(8.3.LAI4 new = "3")"

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

**We were contaminated? // Who was contaminated?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory technician</th>
<th>Stagiair / student for short period (&lt;1 month)</th>
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<th>Animal care taker</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
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**19 [8.3 LAI5 new]** *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

"(8.3.LAI5 new = "3")"

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

**We were contaminated? // Who was contaminated?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory technician</th>
<th>Stagiair / student for short period (&lt;1 month)</th>
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**20 [8.3.1 "Anders" pers] Of which other persons, also involved in the LAI, are you aware of? ** *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

"(8.3.LAI1 new = "0" or 8.3.LAI2 new = "0" or 8.3.LAI3 new = "0" or 8.3.LAI4 new = "0") or (8.3.LAI1 new = "1") or (8.3.LAI2 new = "1") or (8.3.LAI3 new = "1") or (8.3.LAI4 new = "1")"

Please write your answer here:
21 [8.3.2 'andere plaats] Of which other location, also involved in the LAI, are you aware of? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.3 LAI1 new_SQ001_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI2 new_SQ002_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI3 new_SQ001_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI3 new_SQ002_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI3 new_SQ003_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI4 new_SQ001_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI4 new_SQ002_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI4 new_SQ003_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI4 new_SQ004_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI5 new_SQ001_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI5 new_SQ002_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI5 new_SQ003_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI5 new_SQ004_1.NAOK == "a2") or (8.3 LAI5 new_SQ005_1.NAOK == "a2")

Please write your answer here:

22 [8.4 LAI1] Which types of biologic agents were involved? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.1.NAOK == "1")

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Cell culture</th>
<th>Animal care</th>
<th>In vivo research (small and large test animals)</th>
<th>Microbiology</th>
<th>Microscopy</th>
<th>Education (practicum)</th>
<th>Serology or hematology</th>
<th>TSE (diagnostics)</th>
<th>TSE (research)</th>
<th>Maintenance of collection</th>
<th>Cloning</th>
<th>Transport</th>
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<td>LAI 1</td>
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23 [8.4 LAI2 new] *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.1.NAOK == "2")

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Cell culture</th>
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24 [8.4 LAI3 new] Which types of biologic agents were involved? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.1.NAOK == "3")

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Cell culture</th>
<th>Animal care</th>
<th>In vivo research (small and large test animals)</th>
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</table>
**25 [8.4 LAI4 new] * **

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.1.NAOK == "a")

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

In welke context gebeurde de besmetting? // In which context did the contamination happen?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell culture</th>
<th>Animal care</th>
<th>Microbiology</th>
<th>Microscopy</th>
<th>Education (practicum)</th>
<th>Serology or hematology</th>
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**26 [8.4 LAI5 new] * **

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.1.NAOK == "a")

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

In welke context gebeurde de besmetting? // In which context did the contamination happen?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell culture</th>
<th>Animal care</th>
<th>Microbiology</th>
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<tr>
<td>LAI 5</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**27 [8.4.1 new] Which other context are you aware of? * **

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.4 LAI1 SQ001 1.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI2 new SQ002 0.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI3 new SQ004 0.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI4 new SQ005 0.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI5 new SQ001 0.NAOK == "a")

Please write your answer here:

**28 [8.4.2 new] Which other incident do you know that has lead to an infection? * **

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* (8.4 LAI1 SQ001 1.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI2 new SQ002 1.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI3 new SQ003 1.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI4 new SQ005 1.NAOK == "a") or (8.4 LAI5 new SQ001 1.NAOK == "a")

Please write your answer here:
### 29 [8.5 LAI1 new] Which types of biologic agents were involved? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* `(bl.1.NAOX = "1")`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is effectively proven that the LAI resulted from a contamination at work?

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

### 30 [8.5 LAI2 new] *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* `(bl.1.NAOX = "2")`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is effectively proven that the LAI resulted from a contamination at work?

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

### 31 [8.5 LAI3 new] *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* `(bl.1.NAOX = "3")`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is effectively proven that the LAI resulted from a contamination at work?

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

### 32 [8.5 LAI4 new] *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* `(bl.1.NAOX = "4")`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is effectively proven that the LAI resulted from a contamination at work?

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

### 33 [8.5 LAI5 new] *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* `(bl.1.NAOX = "5")`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAI</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is effectively proven that the LAI resulted from a contamination at work?

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know
34 [9 new]

9. Bio-incidents*

Not every bio-incident* leads to an actual infection, but it is interesting to know what type of bio-incidents occur frequently in Belgium. Are you aware of any bio-incidents that have occurred in your organization within the last 5 years?

*Please choose only one of the following:
- Yes
- No

(* A bio-incident is a term to indicate all kinds of irregularities that can happen while working with biologic agents: eg cut accidents and accidental injection, falling and breaking of containers, flasks etc...)

35 [9.1 new]Do you know if one of the possible bio-incidents occurred in your organization (over the last 5 years)? Select the applicable option and on the right side you can give the number or amount of these incidents that have occurred.

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° (9 new.NAOK == "Y")

Please choose all that apply and provide a comment:

- Spills
- Cutting / needle stick accident
- Bites and scratches (animals)
- Splashes
- Falling of recipient
- Breaking of recipient
- Careless handling
- Technical failure of equipment (eg. badly functioning of safety cabinet, centrifuge, ...)
- Not wearing personal protection equipment (gloves, goggles...)
- Technical failure of infrastructure (eg. HVAC, air filter, ...)
- Not known
- Other

(on the right side you can give the number or amount of these incidents that have occurred)

36 [9.2 new]Which other type of bio-incidents can you remember? *

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

° (9.1 new_10.NAOK == "Y")

Please write your answer here:
37 [10.2]Are you aware of the existence of an internal procedure for dealing with a bio-incident? *
Please choose only one of the following:
☐ Yes
☐ No

38 [10 new]10. To your opinion, is a bio-incident spontaneously notified by the personnel? *
Please choose only one of the following:
☐ Yes
☐ No

39 [10.1N]To your opinion, what are the reasons for not reporting such an incident? (Multiple answers possible) *
Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:
* [10 new.NAOK == "N"]
Please choose all that apply:
☐ The bio-incident is not serious enough to report it
☐ Fear for reactions of colleagues
☐ Fear for reactions of superior
☐ Other:

40 [10.1Y new]
To whom is the incident reported? (Multiple answers possible) *
Please choose all that apply:
☐ Biosafety officer/coordinator
☐ Prevention advisor
☐ Occupational health officer
☐ Lab responsible
☐ Colleague(s)
☐ Nobody
☐ Other:

41 [11 new]Questions on spill procedures *
Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does your lab have a procedure for the cleaning of spills?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are there any spill kits available?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there specific spill trainings organized?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42 [12 new]As mentioned earlier, a bio-incident is often the result of several different factors. How high would you rate the next conditions as underlying causes of bio-incidents? ( 0=low, 10= high) *
Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not enough experience</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not enough training received</td>
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<td>Not enough follow-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Too much work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of space</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of adapted equipment, materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about the possible risks that come with a certain activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of attention / absence of mind, being distracted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not respecting certain biosafety practices</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
43 [13] Thank you! This is the end of this survey. If you have remarks or suggestions on this survey, you are invited to write them here.

Please write your answer here:
Thank you for participating in this survey
Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions,
use@wiv-isp.be

01-01-1970 – 01:00
Submit your survey.
Thank you for completing this survey.