

10. Communication and Information

The risk posed from biological specimens needs to be communicated with all people who may be exposed to the risk. This includes workers and anyone visiting the museum. The method and information contained in the communication needs to align with the needs of the audience.

A. Biological Specimen Preparation Workers

Museum activities need to be assessed to identify the activities that would expose the person to biological risk and the information that needs to be communicated.

Workers that prepare biological specimens must receive detailed training and instruction on how specimens are handled safely. The details are developed with a risk assessment to identify the workflow, hazards to be aware of and chemicals and equipment to use. The training and competency assessment is supported with the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs).

B. Other Workers

Workers that have visitor facing roles need to be aware of the risks in the biological specimen preparation. The workers that interact with museum visitors need to know what areas of the museum to avoid and why. Additionally, museum visitors can bring biological specimens into the museum and the public facing workers need to know how to manage this situation.

Other workers in the museum need to understand what areas are restricted and why, with clear information advising that the preserved biological specimens no longer present a risk of biological risk.

C. Museum Visitors

Museums are involved in educating and teach the public. When displaying biological specimens, the public should be prevented from interacting with specimens that would expose them to biological risk.

The public are often inspired by what they observe on display and may want to donate biological specimen. This should be discouraged with information on the museum's website and instructions regarding donations. The Queensland Museum instructs visitors to take a photograph of any item that might be considered appropriate for donation or collection and the Queensland Museum ensures that any collection activities are safely conducted by Queensland Museum personnel.

D. Laboratory Visitors

Laboratory equipment needs to be maintained, and laboratories can host visitors to inspect the area or ensure the area is cleared during an emergency evacuation. Visitors need to understand the risks before they enter and appropriate signage is required, identifying the biological risk hazard and mandatory precautions needed before entry.

Before a visit is scheduled laboratory the activities within the laboratory should be suspend, with biological specimens made safe and the surface areas cleaned.

Provide all visitors to the biological specimen laboratory with clear instruction on the hazards present, what they are permitted to do within the laboratory and the precautions that are needed to keep them safe. This instruction should include how to properly wear, don and doff the face mask or other personal protective equipment. A register of all visitors that have been authorised to enter the laboratory is required.

E. Security

Laboratories that contain significant biological hazards must remain secure. Authority to enter must be document along a defined authorisation process in place that ensure that the information and instruction is recorded, and entry is justified.