



Standardizing Risk Assessment: Scenario

Introduction to Working Groups

Scenario Overview

- This scenario describes a laboratory network with several independent laboratories that have varying hazards and risks
- The newly appointed Laboratory Focal Point would like to standardize risk assessment across the network but is uncertain of how to begin
- Each group will represent the Laboratory Focal Point of the laboratory network, and will be expected to describe the role of the Laboratory Focal Point in standardizing risk assessment in the network, and consider the process required to create this standard.

Scenario Objectives

- Enable Laboratory Focal Points to consider the varying levels of risk across a laboratory network.
- Enable Laboratory Focal Points to begin to think about the process necessary to establish a biorisk management standard across the network
- Enable Laboratory Focal Points to better understand their role as Laboratory Focal Points in mobilizing the national veterinary laboratory network to adopt and implement biological risk assessment
- Encourage the Laboratory Focal Points to begin to draft a process to standardize risk assessment and biorisk management standards across the network

Scenario Guidelines

- Divide into groups
- Discuss the laboratory network and the risks associated with the laboratories and the laboratories' responsibilities
- Discuss how the National Focal Point should be to establish a risk assessment/biorisk management standard across the network
- Consider the process and the challenges associated with seeking stakeholder buy-in, securing resources, obtaining and/or distributing technical expertise across the networks, and establishing policies to sustain the standard

Considerations

- Have you conducted a biohazard identification in your Central Laboratory?
- Have any laboratories within your network conducted biohazard identification?
- Are the pathogens in your laboratories inventoried?
- Do you have a good understanding of risk assessment?
- Have you conducted a risk assessment at your Central Laboratory?
- Have risk assessments been done at laboratories within your network?
- Do you have a standardized process to conduct hazard analysis and risk assessment?

Logistical Instructions

- Create groups with approximately equal numbers
- Each group discuss the hazards and risk in the scenario at a very general level
- Each group will help the described Focal Point determine how to establish a standard for risk assessment
- We will reconvene and discuss how the described Focal Point should begin to establish a standard



Conclusions

What are some of the hazards and risks within this network?

Conclusions

What is the role of the Laboratory Focal Point in establishing a risk assessment and biorisk management standard?

Conclusions

What is the first step that the Laboratory Focal Point should take to begin to establish a standardized risk assessment process?

Considerations:

- a. Seek stakeholder buy-in at the laboratory level
- b. Seek stakeholder buy-in at the Ministry level
- c. Conduct risk assessments of all the laboratories in the network
- d. Nominate 20 laboratory staff members to receive training from an OIE Collaborating Center so that they can conduct the risk assessments
- e. Work with the Ministry to establish a policy to implement biorisk management across networks
- f. Brainstorm with your OIE Delegate on what the best approach might be in establishing the process
- g. Work to obtain resources from the Ministry

Conclusions

How should the Laboratory Focal Point seek stakeholder buy-in at the laboratory level and what are the anticipated challenges?

Conclusions

How should the Laboratory Focal Point seek buy-in at the Ministry level and what are the anticipated challenges?

Conclusions

How should the Laboratory Focal Point begin to conduct the risk assessments across the network and what are the anticipated challenges?

Conclusions

How should the Laboratory Focal Point establish policies and secure resources to sustain the risk assessment standard across the network and what are the anticipated challenges?

Conclusions

1. Hazard identification is essential because these hazards may impact laboratory staff and their families, the community, the surrounding animal population, and the environment. Release can often have global significance.
2. Understanding the risk assessment process is fundamental, so that you as a Focal Point can help establish policies to raise awareness of the risks and establish policies to standardize risk assessment within individual laboratories and across your laboratory networks.
3. It is important for you to establish your role in mobilizing the national veterinary laboratory network to adopt and implement biological risk assessment.