

# Freezer Specimen Disposal

**Hazard:** Freezer specimens such as human blood, tissue or other potentially infectious material must be considered potentially infectious knowledge of the specimens dictates otherwise. Individuals **must apply standard precautions (i.e., Universal Precautions)** when handling these materials.

**Safety:** Individuals cleaning out specimen freezers or handling potentially infectious material stored in freezers must adhere to the following requirements.

- **Bloodborne Pathogens training** must have been completed within the last year. This can be refreshed on Blackboard. Email [labsafety@uthsc.edu](mailto:labsafety@uthsc.edu) to be enrolled in the course.
- **Detailed instructions provided by knowledgeable personnel** should supplement Bloodborne pathogens training (e.g., supervisors or senior personnel should demonstrate).
- **At least gloves and a lab coat** must be worn as personal protective equipment.
- **Dispose of material as red bag/biohazard/Stericycle waste** according to packaging procedures detailed in UTHSC Bloodborne Pathogens training
- Contact the department of Campus Safety and Emergency Management for Stericycle pickup location nearest to your work area.
- Disinfect the freezer inside and out if freezer is no longer to be used or will be managed as surplus inventory. Suitable disinfectants include a 10% blea<sup>h</sup> solution or Spor-Klenz.
- Remove biohazard stickers affixed to the unit following disinfection

Contact the Office of Research Safety at ext. 8-6114 or [labsafety@uthsc.edu](mailto:labsafety@uthsc.edu) for additional information.

