

# Centrifuge Guidance

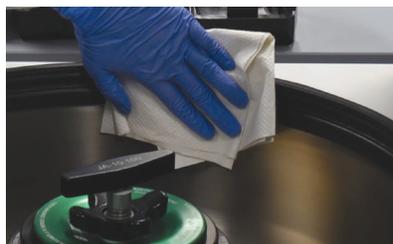


It is widely accepted that aerosol generating procedures in the laboratory may be a common source of laboratory-acquired infections (or LAIs).

Centrifuges, a very common piece of laboratory equipment used in many procedures, have the ability to create respirable-size particles that remain airborne for extended periods of time. This guidance document describes considerations and specific procedures necessary to minimize the opportunity to generate infectious aerosols and to protect personnel during and after centrifugation.

## CENTRIFUGE OPERATIONS

- Infectious biohazards must be centrifuged using sealed rotors and centrifuge safety cups.
  - More than just having a lid -- sealed rotors and safety cups have intact O-rings or gaskets between the lid and the body of the rotor/cup.
- Ensure samples are carefully balanced; do not over-fill tubes. A good rule of thumb is no more than 2/3 full.
- Rotors and/or safety cups must be loaded and unloaded inside the BSC or another containment device.
- Stay with the centrifuge until the desired speed has been reached.
- Disinfect the interior of the centrifuge, and the interior and exterior surfaces of rotors and safety cups before removal from the BSC, and on a routine basis.



## CENTRIFUGE SAFETY

- Inspect all O-rings, seals, and chamber gaskets before use and on a routine basis.
- Lubricate O-rings, seals, and gaskets as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Inspect rotors and safety cups for cracks, damage and cleanliness.
- Do not use a rotor or safety cup that has been dropped.
- If damage is found, notify lab staff and your supervisor.
- Label the equipment with a "do not use" sign; coordinate repair or replacement.

