

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

The National Institutes of Health, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) provide consultation by phone or email on a wide range of challenges that may be encountered during disasters. NIH staff includes SMEs in medical consultation as well as the fields of biosafety, biological risk assessment, chemical and industrial hygiene.

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT (SME) TEAM - Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) provide the community with numerous professional, educational and health-related services. The SMEs are well versed in public health practices and guidelines and can offer assistance in the following areas;

Occupational health and safety in biomedical research

Biological safety cabinets

Primary barrier containment

Indoor air quality

Chemical safety and toxicology

Industrial hygiene

Ergonomics

Food safety and sanitation

Integrated pest management

Drinking water safety

Selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE); and selection and use of engineering controls such as chemical fume hoods, biological safety cabinets, safety showers and eye washes.

Consultation on complex biosafety related issues to ensure compliance with all guidelines, standards and requirements, general and local exhaust ventilation studies, and testing of facility containment and decontamination systems to validate efficacy.

MEDICAL CONSULTATION TEAM - A Medical Consultation Call Center can be initiated in the Clinical Center to provide 24-hour telephone medical consultations to clinicians in an affected area. Medical experts at NIH, academic medical centers (AMCs), and the nation's medical subspecialty professional societies can provide consultations in environmental/toxic concerns, infectious diseases, tropical/geographical medicine, ophthalmology, oral medicine, psychiatry, cardiac/pulmonary diseases, genetic diseases, pediatric endocrinology, pediatric metabolism, obstetrics/gynecology, cancer and adult endocrinology.

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