

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2000 11:32 AM
To: (b) (6) USAMRIID
Subject: FW: Pregnancy and working in anthrax lab

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) USAMRIID
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2000 7:48 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Pregnancy and working in anthrax lab

Hi (b) (6)

Regarding the situation of allowing pregnant women to work in a containment laboratory, I submit the following information. During December 1992, I received legal advice from our lawyer representative regarding Pregnant Women in Biocontainment Suites. A few salient comments were:

a. The condition of pregnancy does not appear to in any manner prevent a women from performing operations in a BSL-3 and BSL-3a environment.

b. I can conceive of no risks to other USAMRIID personnel or to anyone else that will be present if a pregnant woman works in such a BSL suite. Consequently, no bona fide occupational qualification exists to lawfully prevent pregnant women from working

in a BSL-3 or BSL-3a suite.

Consequently, it was necessary to identify USAMRIID's responsibilities with regard to pregnant women, their unborn fetuses, and other laboratory employees. (b) (6) and I discussed this issue in August 1993. It was decided to complete a CONSULTATION SHEET (Standard Form 513) for PREGNANCY AND BIOCONTAINMENT. The CONSULTATION REPORT should include the following:

1. Discuss all apparent and potential risks for the biocontainment suite or laboratory (such as immunizations and laboratory-acquired infections).
2. Explain how USAMRIID has identified the risks (such as the type of procedure [aerosol or animal inoculation], and infection or intoxication incidence).
3. Explain that a decision to limit work in a biocontainment suite or laboratory at a particular stage of pregnancy is justified to insure an effective emergency response, if needed.
4. Acknowledge (by signature or initialing) that the individual has understood this consult and was notified of all apparent and potential risks.

