

Best Practices for Using Biologic Safety Cabinets While Testing for COVID-19

During this evolving landscape of testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the CAP reminds laboratorians of the proper standards for using a Biologic Safety Cabinet (BSC) to ensure safety.



- Monitor the airflow, which is affected by:
 - o Sash level. Be sure the sash is raised to the appropriate level as the air flow is adjusted by the manufacturer with the sash at a specified level
 - o Air grill. Never put objects on the air grill as this will interfere with the air flow and may cause the air flow to enter the laboratory rather than go



- If acquiring a new BSC, be sure to place it in a low traffic area—traffic behind the person working at the BSC can disrupt the airflow and endanger the person working at the BSC as well as disturbing the airflow into the BSC



- The airflow can also be disrupted by rapid movements within the BSC



- Work inside the BSC, in the center and not immediately near the grill for the optimal air flow



- Work from clean to contaminated



- Open tubes one at a time as much as possible



- Clean work surface frequently—always in between batches of patient specimens



- Do as much grossing under the BSC as possible

Be aware that you may not know where each of the specimens came from, or if the containers were properly wiped down. Wear gloves and always uncap specimens behind a protective shield or biologic safety cabinet, in addition to wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment.

Visit cap.org for the latest COVID-19 [information](#) and [updates](#).

