



# **Agenda**

Purpose: Provide information and answer questions about the health and safety of research laboratory development in Boston.

- 1. Research Lab Development Overview (**Reuben Kantor,** Boston Planning & Development Agency)
  - Siting
  - Design Guidelines
  - Market Trends
- 2. Economic Impact of Life Science Industry (**David Shore**, MassBio/Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc.)
- 3. Lab Safety
  - Public Health (**Paul Shoemaker, PJ McCann**, Boston Public Health Commission)
  - Fire Safety Design Requirements (Christopher Lynch, Code Red Consultants)
  - Boston Fire: Hazardous Materials, Inspections, Response (Chief Patrick Ellis, Captain Mark Dunnigan,
     Captain Ryan McGovern, Boston Fire Department)
  - Emergency Medical Response (Leo Shubitowski, Boston EMS)
  - Worker safety (Sara Evarts, Safety Partners)
  - Laboratory Safety (Brandon Linz, Triumvirate Environmental)
- 4. Q&A

  boston planning &

  development agency

# Where are Labs Located in Boston?

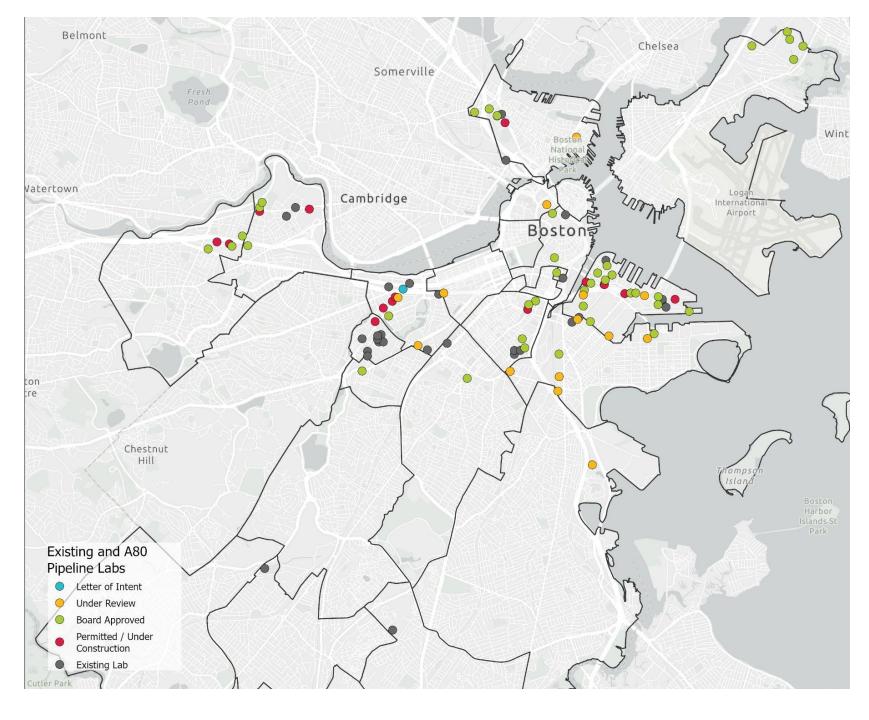


# Of the 125 research labs in the BPDA development database:

- 19 projects (5.3M SqFt) are in the phase of letter of intent/under review
- 51 projects (13.9M) are
   Board approved
- 18 project (5.0M) are permitted / under construction

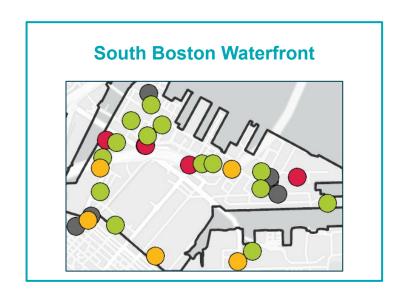
Source: BPDA Development Review Salesforce database, as of April 1, 2024





# Most labs are concentrated in institutional and jobs centers

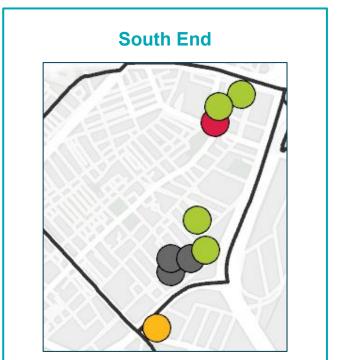


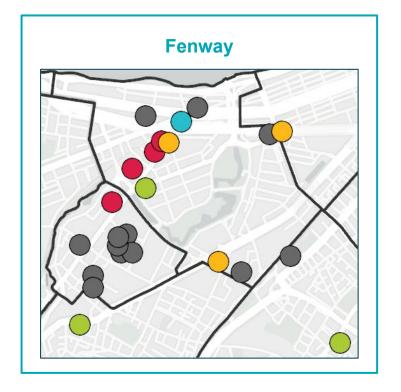






Charlestown



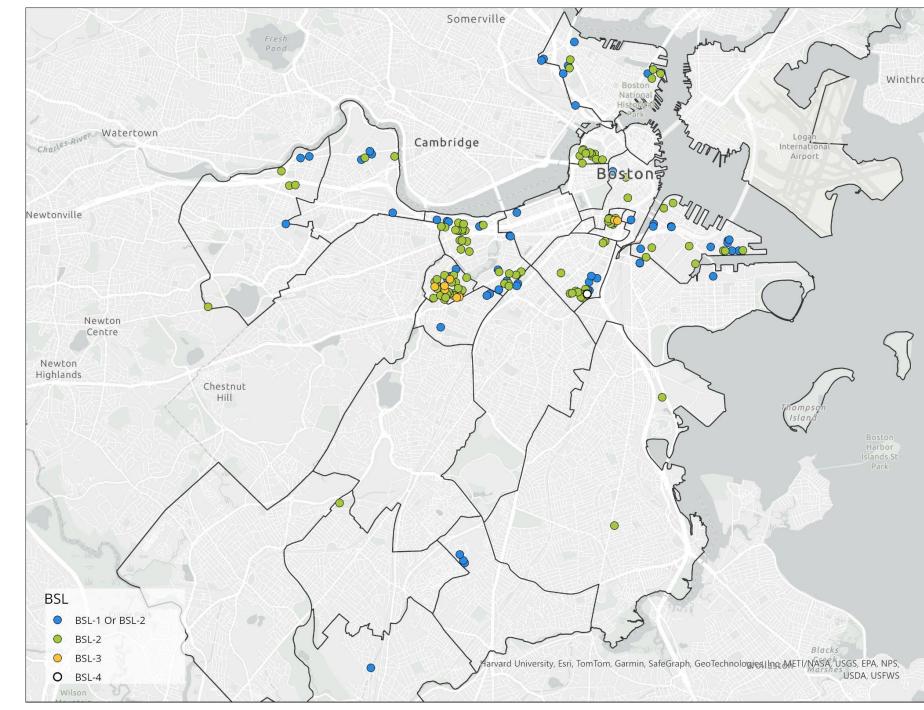




Letter of Intent
Under Review
Board Approved
Permitted / Under
Construction
Existing Lab

# There are 243 existing labs in the City at 168 unique addresses

Of those, seven locations are at BSL-3 and one is a BSL-4, all of which are run by hospitals and universities.





# Design Guidelines?



# What is the purpose of the Design Guidelines?

Inform property owners, business owners, developers, and the public about the desired form and character of life science development in the City of Boston.

The BPDA aims to work with developers and the community to help life science development:

- Achieve a respectful fit that complements and enhances neighboring buildings and the unique character of each of Boston's neighborhoods.
- Support flexibility in building design and use, including allowing future innovations in life science requirements and conversion to non-life science uses in anticipation of market changes in a fast-moving and innovative industry.
- Contribute to the urban fabric of the City of Boston, in ways that activate mixed-use and industrial areas and support the growth and preservation of housing, offices, community facilities, neighborhood retail, and new industry.
- **Contribute to citywide planning goals** including resilience, sustainability, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.



# How will the Life Science Design Guidelines be used?

- To be used by the BPDA, other City agencies, developers, architects, and community members to evaluate project design and applications.
- They provide guidance on citywide design and performance goals for lab development.
- They do not supersede neighborhood plans, existing zoning or regulations.
- Consistency with these guidelines is also separate and distinct from other review processes such as the review process of the Boston Civic Design Commission (BCDC) or Boston Public Improvement Commission (PIC).

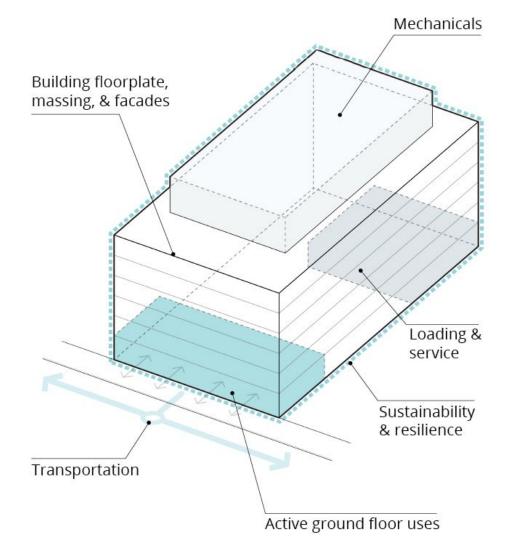


# **Design Guidelines Focus Areas**

The document provides design guidance on:

- 1. Building Floorplate, Massing, & Facades
- 2. Mechanicals
- 3. Ground Floor: Active Uses, Loading & Service
- 4. Transportation
- 5. Sustainability & Resilience

When these elements are considered holistically from the beginning of the design process, future lab buildings can become more flexible, inclusive, resilient, and responsive to the evolving needs of the city.





# Our Design Guidelines process to date

We are here

Draft Design Guidelines Refine Design Guidelines Release & Test Draft Design Guidelines

Refine Design Guidelines Adopt & Release Final Guidelines

**Focus groups** with:

- developers
- BSA members

BPDA staff research and draft guidelines

Focus groups with:

- developers
- BSA members

# **Publish** Draft Guidelines

 Approximately 1 year of proposed projects to be designed to guidelines

## **Assess and Refine**Draft Guidelines

- Evaluate results:
  - Respectful Fit
  - Design Flexibility
  - Urban Fabric
  - Planning Goals

#### Publish Revised Draft Guidelines

- Public & industry review
- Host public meetings
- Adopt the final Design Guidelines

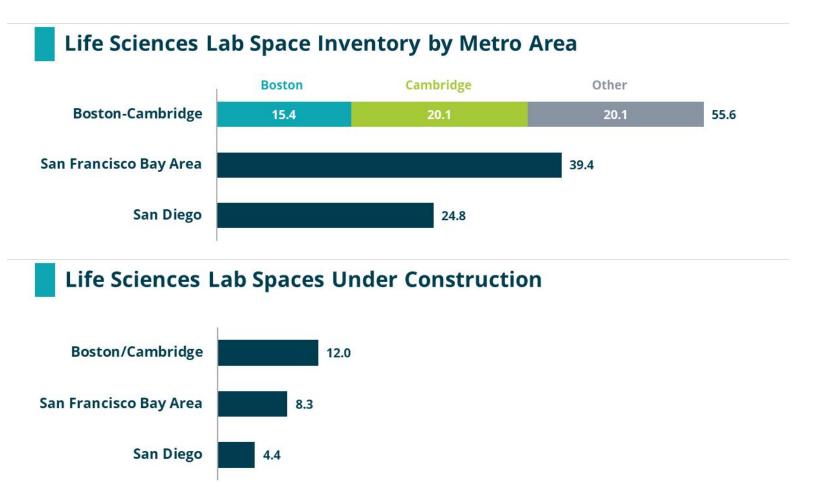


# **Market Trends**



# **Existing and Under Construction Lab Space**

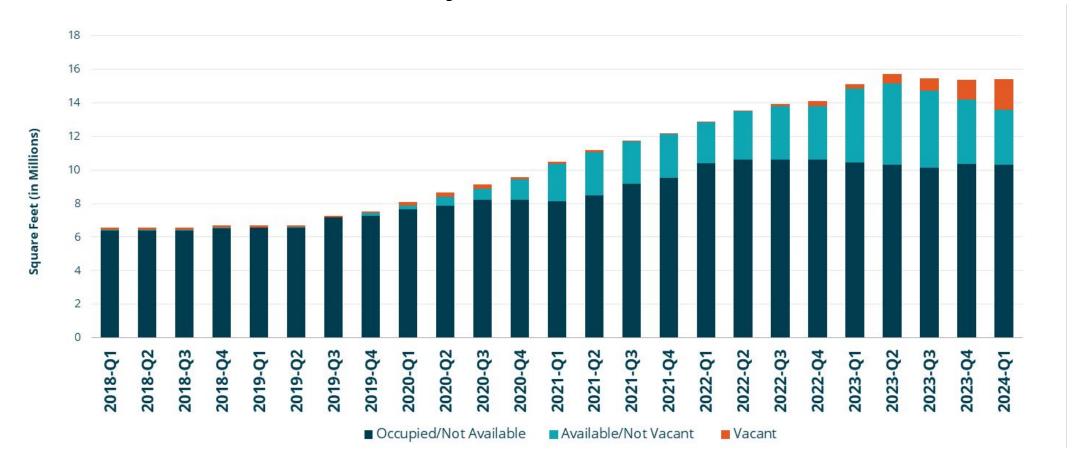
Life sciences lab space in inventory and under construction by metro area, Q4 2023, in millions of square feet



The Boston/Cambridge metro has the most commercial lab space in the country with more coming online.

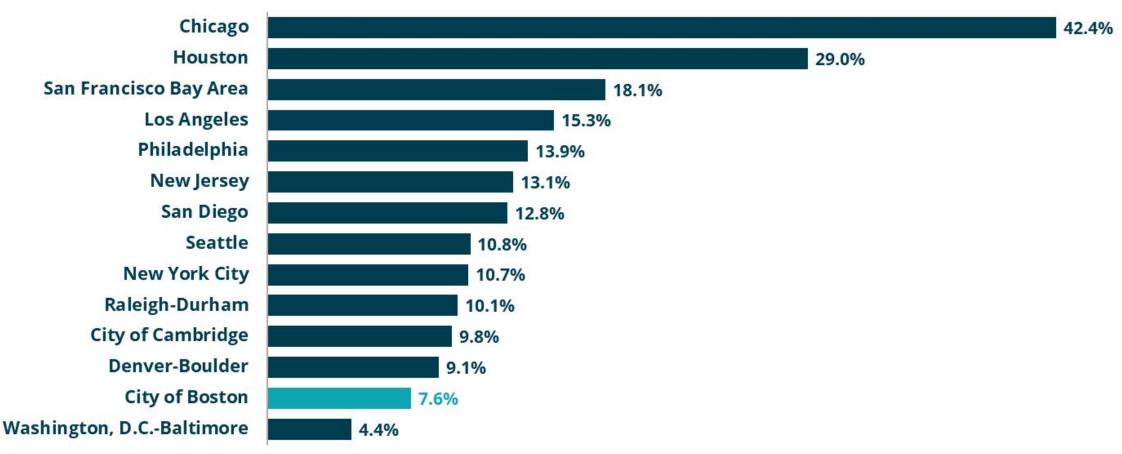
### **Total Commercial Lab Inventory in Boston**

Commercial lab inventory in Boston has increased rapidly over the past 4 years, but about a third is currently available.



## Life sciences Lab Vacancy Rate by City

Boston lab vacancy rates remain low compared to other parts of the country.

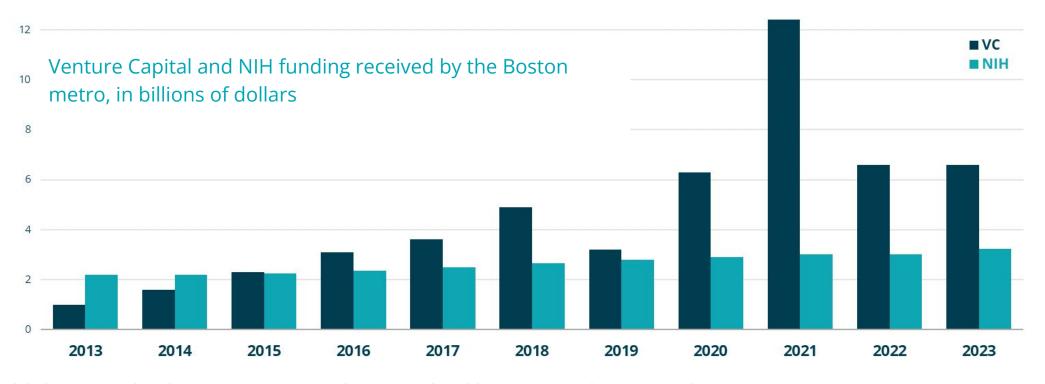


Source: CBRE, Global Commercial Real Estate Services, Q4 2023, BPDA Research Division Analysis All areas except City of Boston and City of Cambridge are metro areas

### **Boston Metro: A National Hub for Life Science Investment**

#### **Upcoming Major Investments:**

- \$500 million private investment in Cambridge biotechnology firm Arena BioWorks
- The Federal Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) selected Cambridge to be a regional hub anchoring its national health innovation network. To date, **\$206.6 million in funding** to Boston metro area projects
- Reauthorization of the Commonwealth's Life Sciences Initiative at \$1 billion for 10 years



# Economic Impact of Life Science Industry

MassBio/Environmental Health & Engineering



## About MassBio

MassBio's mission is to advance Massachusetts' leadership in the life sciences to grow the industry, add to the healthcare system, and improve patient lives. MassBio represents the premier global life sciences and healthcare hub, with 1,600+ members dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing diseases through transformative science and technology that brings value and hope to patients.

Learn more at massbio.org



# Industry Employment: Biopharma

### Economic Impact, 2022



"MassBio's 2023 Snapshot outlines what we have long known to be true — Massachusetts is the global epicenter of the life sciences industry. We are the home of life-changing innovation because we have recognized the unique opportunity to harness the incredible talents and resources that we have here, and back them with real investments. Our administration remains committed to partnering with the industry to support our workforce, expand new opportunities through job training, and continue to inspire innovation."

- Governor Maura Healey, Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

# Industry Employment: Biopharma

### Massachusetts Biopharma Industry Employment

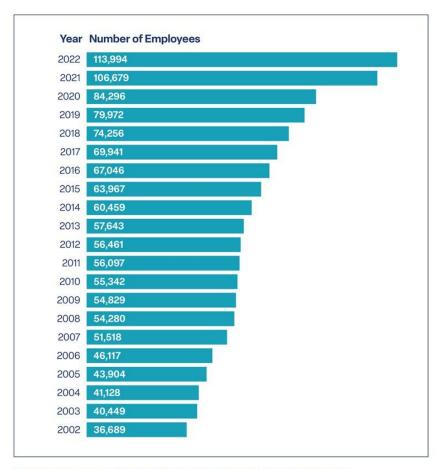
- In 2022, biopharma employment in Massachusetts grew by 6.9%.
- Since the Massachusetts Life Sciences Initiative was passed in 2008, biopharma employment grew by 110%.



"Sanofi's newest campus, Cambridge Crossing, opened in 2022 where our Massachusetts-based Research & Development (R&D), Medical and the Specialty Care business unit teams, among others, help develop

transformative treatments for patients. Grounded by our rich heritage and driven by our patient-focused, science led approach, we are proud of our long-history in Massachusetts and our unwavering commitment to the communities where we live and work across the Commonwealth."

 Bill Sibold, Executive Vice President, Head of Global Specialty Care, Sanofi



Footnote: In response to the changing life sciences industry, MassBio revised the NAICS codes we use to measure total biopharma employment in 2021.

Source: Privately owned companies, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)



# Workforce Update

### **Bioversity**

- Second Bioversity cohort graduated; third cohort goes through June 27<sup>th</sup>
- Board Meeting held May 8<sup>th.</sup> Recapping Lessons Learned and adjusting the program as it rolls

#### **Life Sciences Career Alliance**

Partnering with YearUp to create an intermediary between training programs and industry.

#### Goals will include:

- Ensuring alignment between industry needs and training being provided
- Supporting the City of Boston's efforts to bring 1000 residents into the life sciences workforce

# Industry Employment: Biopharma

### Largest Biopharma Industry Employers in Massachusetts



"Massachusetts is a global leader in the life sciences industry with a thriving ecosystem of innovative companies, world-renowned hospitals and top academic institutions. Takeda is proud to contribute to the continued growth of

this important science innovation hub, and we support the state's commitment to fostering a dynamic environment that attracts investment, drives collaboration, builds talent and advances patient care."

 Julie Kim, President, U.S. Business Unit and U.S. Country Head, Takeda

Rank	Company	Massachusetts Employees
1	Takeda	6,290
2	Sanofi	4,600
3	Moderna	4,163
4	Vertex	3,400
5	Pfizer	3,012
6	Novartis	2,500
7	Biogen	2,100
8	Bristol Myers Squibb	1,850
9	AbbVie	1,560
10	AstraZeneca/Alexion	1,400
11	Alnylam	1,159
12	Foundation Medicine	1,100
13	Merck	955
14	Sarepta	735
15	Ginkgo Bioworks	726
16	Alkermes	700
17	EMD Serono	618
18	Beam Therapeutics	550
19	GlaxoSmithKline	432
20	Amgen	407

Source: MassBio Membership Reports & Surveys

# Boston Public Health Commission

### Paul Shoemaker

Director, Environmental and Occupational Health Division

### Labs are categorized based on risk

Laboratories working with dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections and life-threatening diseases

High-risk and life threatening, like the Ebola Virus

Increasing risk & of permitting increasing risk of permitting

**Biosafety** Level III (BSL-III)

**Biosafety** 

Level IV

(BSL-IV)

include clinical, diagnostic, teaching, research or production facilities working with indigenous or exotic agents that may cause serious or potentially lethal diseases as a result of exposure by inhalation

Usually curable/ treatable, but higher risk, like **Tuberculosis** 

(BSL-II)

laboratories working with agents of moderate potential hazard to personnel and the environment. Laboratory personnel have specific training in handling pathogenic agents

Curable / treatable, like Lyme or influenza

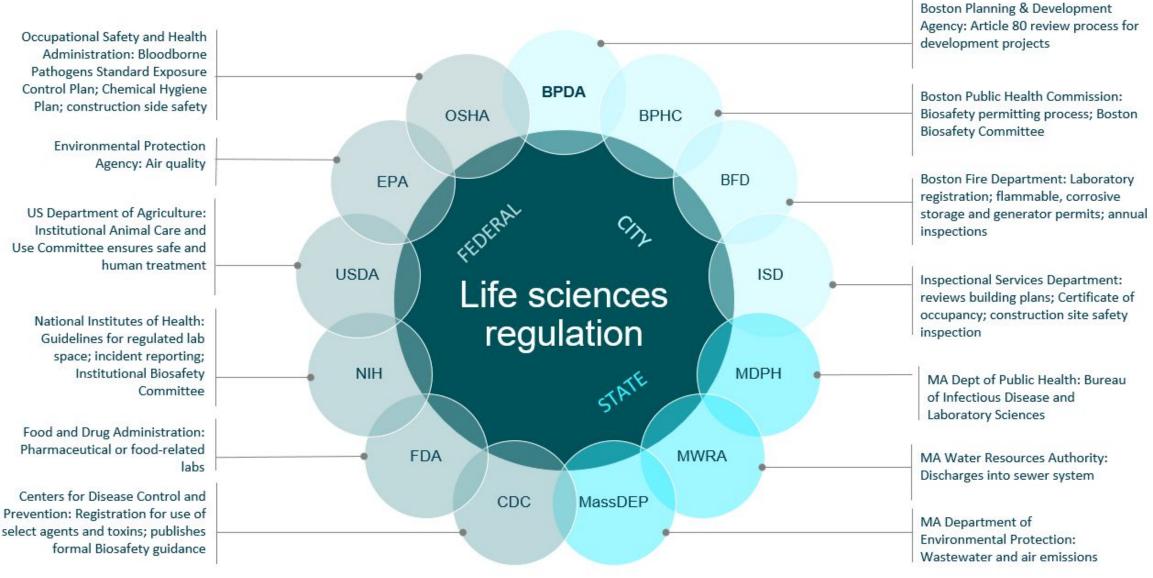
**Biosafety** Level I (BSL-I)

laboratories working with well-characterized agents that are not known for causing disease in healthy adult humans and are of minimal potential hazard to laboratory personnel and the environment

"like your kitchen"



# **Regulatory Framework**





# Public Health Laboratory Regulation and Oversight

#### **BPHC Regulations:**

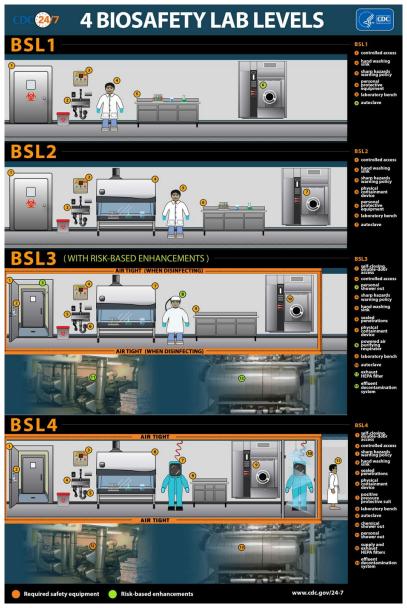
- Biological Laboratory Regulation (rDNA BSL-2, BSL-3, BSL-4)

#### Inspections:

- New permit applications, amendments
- Compliance, announced and unannounced
- Incident investigation

#### Reporting:

- Illness or disease (confirmed or suspected) caused by high-risk agent/attenuated strain
- Unexplained absenteeism from workplace
- Spill or accidental release (rDNA materials or high-risk agents)
- Personnel exposure or potential exposure
- Failure of major mechanical system (e.g., HVAC)
- Any incidents reportable to NIH or CDC





# **Advisory and Coordinating Bodies**

# Boston Biosafety Committee (BBC)

- Created by Biosafety Regulation, appointed by BPHC Commissioner, provides technical assistance and advice to BPHC on permits, research protocols, modifications, and other regulatory issues
- Includes:
  - Research scientists
  - Biosafety officers
  - Infectious disease experts
  - Occupational health doctors
  - Boston community residents

# Boston Biosafety Working Group (BSWG)

- Coordinating group of City agencies involved with lab regulation and emergency response
- Includes:
  - BPHC Biosafety Program
  - BPHC Office of Public Health Preparedness
  - Boston EMS
  - Boston Fire Department
  - Boston Police Department
  - Mayor's Office of Emergency Management
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - Leadership of BSL-3 and BSL-4 labs



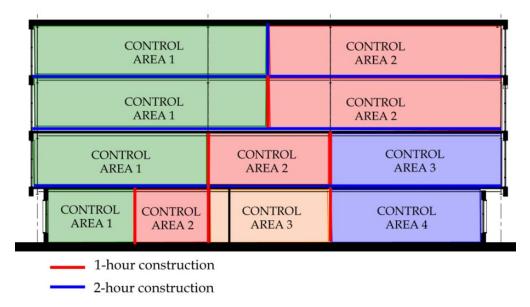
# **Code Red Consultants**

Design Requirements for Fire Safety



## Laboratory Base Building Key Design Requirements for Safety

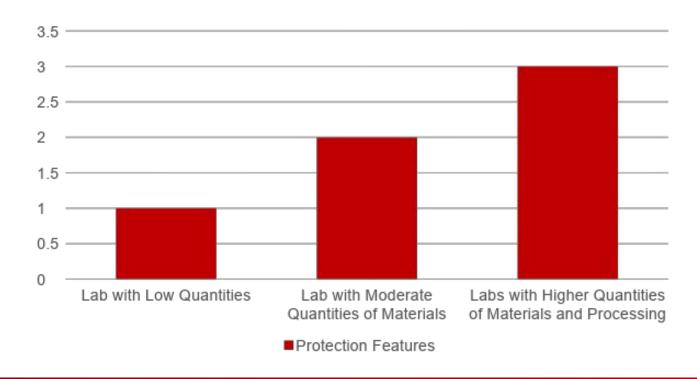
- The Building Structure is generally of Fire-Proofed Steel and Concrete
- 2. Building is divided into fire areas by floors and walls designed to slow movement of fire
  - Chemical restrictions on amount per fire area
- 3. Automatic sprinkler design is more robust and designed to control fire from lab hazards
- 4. HVAC systems designed specifically for lab hazards
- 5. Required Protection Features increase as hazards increase





# **Building Fire Protection Features Relate to Risk of Hazards**

- Protection design is based on the type of chemical hazards, the quantity of the chemicals present, and the nature of the use of chemicals
- Code Requires a "belts and suspenders" approach for redundancy as risks increase



# **Boston Fire Department**



Laboratory Safety Unit Fire Prevention



# **BFD LABORATORY SAFETY UNIT**



Fire Marshal Deputy Chief Patrick Ellis Asst. Marshal District Chief Joe Walsh Fire Captain Mark Dunnigan Fire Chemist John Drugan Fire Lieutenant Michael Kates Fire Inspector Alston Allen



# BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CORE MISSION

The Boston Fire Department is a dedicated group of professionals united in our mission to serve the community by protecting life, property, and the environment.

Our ability to protect the community is accomplished through our relentless efforts in fire prevention, education, and training which yields top-tier emergency, medical, and firefighting services.



## **BOSTON FIRE LAB SAFETY UNIT**

"An ounce of Prevention is worth a pound of cure" (Benjamin Franklin).

- Lab Inspectors are trained Fire Prevention Officers & certified Hazardous Material Technician/Specialists.
- Lab Unit is tasked to enforce the fire code in order to prevent and minimize fires or explosions in laboratory-scale operations involve hazardous materials.
  - In 1990s, the position of Laboratory Safety Officer was created within the Boston Fire Department.
  - In 2021, The BFD began making significant efforts to create the Laboratory Safety Unit in response to the rapid growth in Boston's the life science industry to further support fire prevention efforts.



## LABORATORY SAFETY OFFICER

### PRIMARY DUTIES - Per City Municipal Code 11-5c

- Responsible for conducting programmatic inspections.
- Inspections may entail comprehensive physical inspections of laboratories and/or laboratory facilities.
- Alternatively, inspections may focus solely on assessing compliance with registration requirements & emergency preparedness.
- Ensures vital information is readily accessible to first responders & Hazard Warning Signage is posted & accurate.

## **ADDITIONAL DUTIES - LAB SAFETY UNIT**

### WHAT ELSE THE LAB UNIT DOES!

- Conducts Plan Reviews New Permit Submissions
- Inspects New & Existing Laboratories.
- Inspects Facilities That Process Hazardous Materials (PSM).
- Supervise HazMat Disposal/Removals High Hazards
- Provide Education on Lab Safety & Fire Safety
- Assist in Hazard Control & Risk Reduction
- Post Lab Incident/Accident Investigations

#### BFD LAB PERMITTING & REGISTRATION PROCESS

#### WHAT IS REVIEWED DURING PERMITTING PROCESS?

- Review process ultimately determines if permit request is within code limits & if the laboratories built environment & safeguards satisfy the code requirements.
- Fire Marshal may require additional safeguards.

### **Laboratory Inspection Process - New Lab Permits**

Inspection Process: Two Part Inspection

### **Inspection 1: Lab Safety Inspection**

Labs Built Environment - Safeguards/Devices - Signage Emergency Response Data

Passing this inspection enables the laboratory to begin to store & use hazardous materials within the permit limits.

### Inspection 2: Operations Inspection

Proper Storage & Use of Hazardous Materials - Safe Lab Practices

# **BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**



SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND HAZMAT

# BFD Soc-Hazmat Capabilities

- 5 Hazmat Technician Companies
  - Stationed throughout The City
- 10 Decontamination Companies
  - Stationed to respond citywide, as well as to strategic hospitals
- Special Operations Command
  - 6 Specialists
  - Chain of command
  - Training & Equipment

## Response Levels

#### Level 0

Petroleum spills less than 10 gallons

#### Level 1

- Petroleum spills between 10- 50 gallons
- CO levels above 100 PPM
- Transformer leaks with PCBs

#### Level 2

- Petroleum spills above 50 gallons
- Unknown chemical leaks or releases

#### Level 3

- Confirmed chemical spill requiring use of Chemical Protective Equipment
- Chlorine or Anhydrous Ammonia

# **Boston EMS**



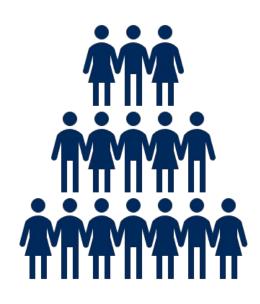
Len Shubitowski Superintendent for Operations Boston Emergency Medical Services



#### **2023 OVERVIEW**

#### BOSTON EMS BY THE NUMBER





**Uniformed Personnel** 









#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & TRAINING





Advanced education and training in the Boston EMS Training Academy



Coordination and response planning in conjunction with BPHC and Boston Fire



Biosafety network and regular meetings



# Laboratory Safety Overview: Safety Partners

# Sara Evarts, CIH

sevarts@safetypartnersinc.com
Associate Director, Industrial Hygiene
Safety Partners, Inc.



Over the past 30 years, Safety Partners has supported 800+ organizations in environmental health and safety with permits, licenses, manual creation, manifest management, program maintenance, training, and all compliance/regulatory needs so they can focus solely on their science and research. We help organizations in vital phases of their growth by simplifying environmental health and safety and taking the burden off scientific management and their teams.

- Biological safety
- Chemical safety
- Radiation safety
- EHS program development, oversight, & implementation
- Safety training programs
- Regulatory compliance
- Permits & licenses

- EHS audits
- Animal care & use
- Emergency preparedness
- Industrial hygiene
- Laser safety
- Ergonomics
- Decommissioning

#### **REGULATORY AGENCIES**

- In addition to the Boston regulatory agencies, laboratories are regulated by various Federal and State agencies
- These agencies can conduct inspections of laboratory facilities
- Goal is to have companies "inspection ready"
- Inspection readiness goes hand in hand with maintaining a safe workplace
- Laboratories are specially designed and operated for the proper handling of laboratory materials
  - Worker safety
  - Public safety
  - Environmental protection

#### **ENGINEERING CONTROLS**

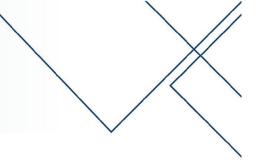
- Laboratories have a specific airflow to maintain containment
  - Air flows from the offices into the labs, such that lab air does not leave designated work areas
  - Lab air HVAC is separate from office air HVAC
  - Lab air is exhausted from a facility through specific ventilation systems that can be monitored and filtered as needed

#### ENGINEERING CONTROLS CONT.

- Chemical Fume Hood
  - Used to contain any material that produces vapors, fumes, aerosols, etc. at the source
  - High flow rate through dedicated exhaust
    - » Air does not enter lab space
    - Exhaust can be monitored and filtered as necessary

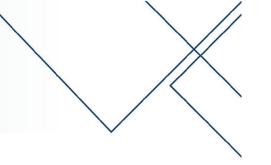


#### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS**



- The implementation of an EHS program:
  - Company must be compliant with federal, state, and local regulations
  - Permits must be acquired and maintained
  - Program ensures worker safety and protects the environment and the public
  - Typically accomplished by each company through an onsite EHS or safety representative or consultant
- Required Safety Manuals:
  - Emergency Action Plan or Contingency Plan
    - » Emergency response is planned in advance
- Other Safety Manuals, if applicable to work being conducted:
  - Biosafety Manual & Exposure Control Plan
  - Chemical Hygiene Plan

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS CONT.



#### General EHS Training

- All employees get Emergency Procedures Training
- Lab workers receive appropriate training guided by regulatory requirements
  - » Lab Standard
  - » Hazard Communication
  - » Biosafety/Bloodborne Pathogens
- Task-Specific Training
  - Lab workers receive task-specific training from supervisors or process experts as required

#### **CONCLUSION**





REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS** 



**ENGINEERING CONTROLS** 



A SAFE
WORKPLACE,
ENVIRONMENT,
and PUBLIC



# **Laboratory Safety Overview**

# Brandon Linz, PhD, RBP (ABSA)

EHS Director of Biosafety Triumvirate Environmental



### **Triumvirate Environmental**

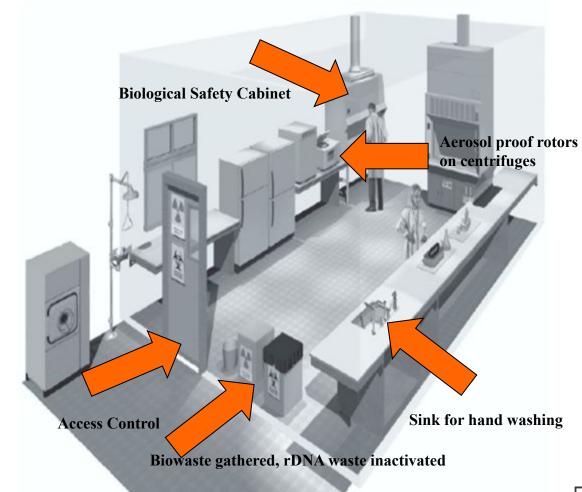
- EHS Consulting and Program Management
- Onsite Support, Waste Management
- Hazardous Waste Disposal, Fuel Blending, and Recycling
- Biosafety Cabinet and Fume Hood Certifications
- HazMat Emergency Response





### **BSL2 Laboratories**

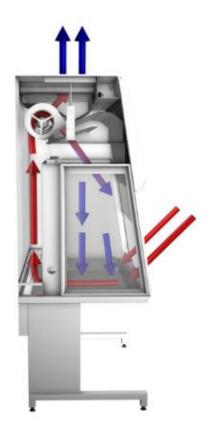
- Access control
- Biowaste gathered
  - Inactivated onsite or offsite
- Aerosol containment
  - BSC
  - Aerosol proof rotors on centrifuges
  - Others as needed





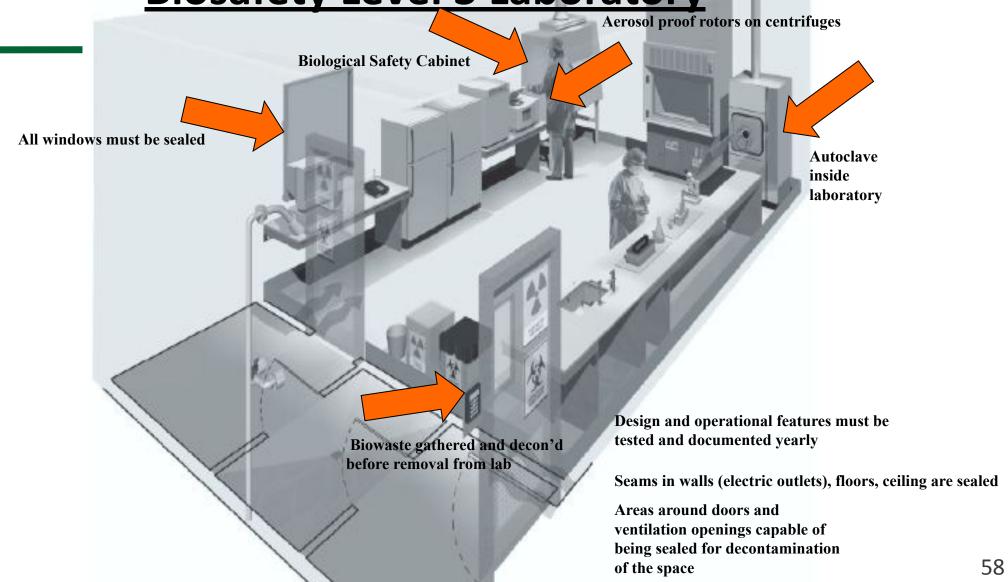
# **Engineering Controls**

- Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs) protect users, the environment, and the materials in use.
- Contaminated air is passed through a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and the filtered air is blown onto the work surface or re-circulated out of the cabinet back into the lab.



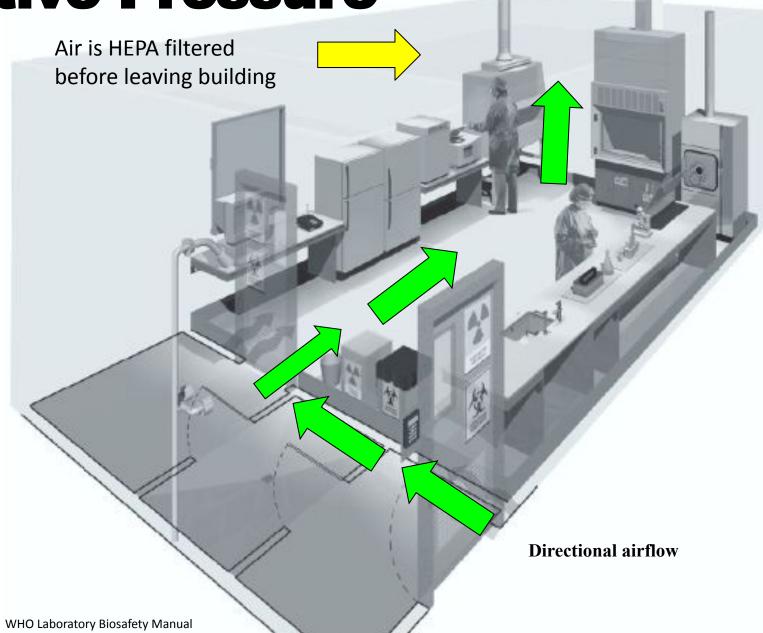


# **Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory**





**Negative Pressure** 





# **BSL3 Laboratory**







## **Changes from BSL2 to BSL3**

- Facility design
  - Negative pressure is required
- HVAC
  - Redundant supply and exhaust
    - Dedicated exhaust
    - HEPA filtered exhaust
  - Emergency power and battery supply for all containment equipment and HVAC
- Containment
  - Aerosol containment
  - All samples within secondary containment at all times
- PPE: Double gloves, disposable gown or Tyvek suit, respirator (N95 or PAPR)
- Facility must be commissioned initially and annually



# **BSL4 Laboratory**

- Positive Pressure Suits
  - Or Class III BSC
- Chemical showers and kill tanks
- Personnel suitability
- Facility and program security
- Heavy federal, state and local regulatory oversight





# **Biomedical Research Advances**Treatments and Cures

- Vaccine development and testing
- Therapeutics development and production
  - Small molecules
  - Antibodies
  - Viral vectors/gene therapy
- Clinical testing
  - Research
  - Diagnostics
- Basic science research







### What do researchers do in these labs?

- Genetic analysis and manipulations
- Cell and organismal culture
- Animal studies and tissue processing
- Clinical human patient sample processing
- Processing and analysis of above samples





# Conclusion



#### Goals

- Safety First. Safety is always top of mind. We strive to improve public confidence in the safety of our Life Science Industry.
- Communication Is Key. Ensure that we are listening to community concerns, and responding and improving practices wherever we can.
- Core to Our Economy. This industry is vital for the Greater Boston Economy.
- Stay Informed and Involved. Participate in open meetings and consider involvement with research organizations in the City.



# Questions

