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| **CHARACTERISTICS** |
| Morphology | Gram-negative, capsulated obligatory anaerobic bacilli that are non-spore forming, pale-staining, and some are motile by peritrichous flagella, while other taxa are non-motile. |
| Disease | Abscesses within the cranium, thorax, intestines, peritoneum, liver, and female genital tract. Spread to bloodstream (bacteremia) is most common for B. fragilis. |
| Zoonosis | Yes, skin penetrating animal bites can lead to infection. |

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| **HEALTH HAZARDS** |
| Host Range | Humans, dogs, cats and other animals. |
| Modes of Transmission | Animal/human bites, burns, cuts, or penetration of foreign objects, including those involved in surgery. |
| Signs and Symptoms | Widespread intra-abdominal abscesses may be associated with fever and abdominal pain. |
| Infectious Dose | Unknown. |
| Incubation Period | 1-5 days. |

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| **MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS/TREATMENT** |
| Prophylaxis | Metronidazole, imipenem, and amoxicillin. |
| Vaccines | None. |
| Treatment | Drainage of abscesses and debridement of necrotic tissue are the mainstays of treatment. Antimicrobial therapy is complicated by the fact that abdominal *B. fragilis* isolates almost always produce β-lactamase. |
| Surveillance | Monitor for symptoms. |
| MSU Requirements | Report any exposures. |

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| **LABORATORY HAZARDS** |
| Laboratory Acquired Infections (LAIs)  | None reported. |
| Sources | Feces, wound exudates, tissues (intestinal tract, vagina, respiratory tract), and laboratory animal bites, cultures, frozen stocks, other samples described in IBC protocol. |

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| **RISK GROUP & CONTAINMENT REQUIREMENTS** |
| Risk Group 2 | Agents that are associated with human disease which is rarely serious and for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are often available. |
| BSL2 | For all procedures involving suspected or known infectious specimen or cultures. |
| ABSL2 | For all procedures utilizing infected animals. |

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| **VIABILITY** |
| Disinfection | Low concentration of chlorine, 1% sodium hypochlorite, 70 % ethanol, phenolics such as orthophenylphenol and ortho-benzyl-paua-chlorophenol, 2% aqueous glutaraldehyde, iodine, formaldehyde, and peracetic acid (0.001% to 0.2%) |
| Inactivation | Inactivated by moist heat (60 minutes at 121oC) and dry heat (1-2 hours at 160-170oC). |
| Survival Outside Host | Bacteroides have been detected in feces infected water by PCR for at least 2 weeks at 4°C; 4 to 5 days at 14°C; 1 to 2 days at 24°C; and 1 day at 30°C. |

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| **SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES** |
| BMBL | <https://www.cdc.gov/labs/BMBL.html>  |
| NIH Guidelines | <https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/NIH_Guidelines.pdf>  |
| Canada PSDS | <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/laboratory-biosafety-biosecurity/pathogen-safety-data-sheets-risk-assessment/bacteroides.html> |

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| **SPILL PROCEDURES** |
| Small | Notify others working in the lab. Remove PPE and don new PPE. Cover area of the spill with absorbent material and add fresh 1:10 bleach:water. Allow 20 minutes (or as directed) of contact time. After 20 minutes, cleanup and dispose of materials. |
| Large | * Immediately notify all personnel in the lab and clear all personnel from the area. Remove any contaminated PPE/clothing and leave the lab.
* Secure the area by locking doors, posting signage and guarding the area to keep people out of the space.

For assistance, contact MSU's Biosafety Officer (406-994-6733) or Safety and Risk Management (406-994-2711). |

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| **EXPOSURE PROCEDURES** |
| Mucous membrane | Flush eyes, mouth, or nose for 5 minutes at eyewash station. |
| Other Exposures | Wash area with soap and water for 5 minutes. |
| Reporting | Immediately report incident to supervisor, complete a [First Report of Injury](https://firstreportinjury.mus.edu/) form, and submit to Safety and Risk Management. |
| Medical Follow-up | **During business hours:**Bridger Occupational Health 3400 Laramie Drive Weekdays 8am -6pm. Weekends 9am-5pm406-577-7674**After business hours:**Bozeman Deaconess Hospital Emergency Room915 Highland Blvd |

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| **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)** |
| Minimum PPE Requirements | Lab coat, disposable gloves, safety glasses, closed toed shoes, long pants |
| Additional Precautions | Additional PPE may be required depending on lab specific SOPs and IBC Protocol. |