EQUIPMENT AND CAPABILITIES

The Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit is a secured area with a self-contained, negative-pressure airflow system.

Other features include:

- Negative air flow with greater than 15 air exchanges per hour
- High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration system
- Secured access, double door air lock main entrance
- Separate staff entrances and exits
- Staff decontamination shower
- Pass through sterilizer to disinfect materials leaving the unit
- Dunk tank to decontaminate lab specimens leaving the unit
- Video phone for patient communication
- Close proximity to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) BSL III Lab
- HEPA patient transport system allows for safe transport of patients to the unit



Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit

984550 Nebraska Medical Center Omaha, NE 68198-4550

Philip W. Smith, MD

Medical Director

Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit
402.559.8650

pwsmith@unmc.edu

Angela Hewlett, MD

Associate Medical Director
Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit
402.559.8650
alhewlett@unmc.edu

Shelly Schwedhelm, MSN, RN

Director, Emergency Department, Trauma and Preparedness Services 402.559.8766 sschwedh@nebraskamed.com

Kate Boulter, RN, BS

Lead, Registered Nurse

Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit
402.559.4727

kboulter@nebraskamed.com

Joseph Acierno, MD, JD

Chief Medical Officer

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
402.471.8566 (business hours)
402.471.2400 (after hours)

NEBRASKA BIOCONTAINMENT PATIENT CARE UNIT





SERIOUS MEDICINE. EXTRAORDINARY CARE.*





Providing care for patients with highly contagious diseases, the biocontainment unit is an environment that maximizes the safety for staff and the community at large. A full spectrum of care is provided — from quarantine to intensive care treatment — for patients of all ages. The unit is designed to handle infections such as viral hemorrhagic fevers (eg, Ebola virus), as well as smallpox, SARS, monkeypox and avian influenza, whether acquired in a bioterrorist attack, in a laboratory accident or as a naturally occurring infection.



The threat of *bioterrorism* in the United States is very real.



Nebraska is prepared.

The Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit is a collaborative project involving Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, The Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska Medical Center. It is one of only a few biocontainment patient care units in the United States and is the largest with a 10-bed capacity. In addition to providing medical care for patients with hazardous diseases, the unit also has active research and outreach training programs for the region.

Unit personnel consist of a highly trained staff of physicians, nurses, techs, infection preventionists and respiratory therapists who have special training in disaster management, cardiac life support and bioterrorism. They work full-time in other areas of The Nebraska Medical Center but remain on call to report to the unit promptly.

The Nebraska Biocontainment Patient Care Unit was dedicated by Julie Gerberding, MD of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2005. In the event of a public health threat, the unit may be activated by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the NBU medical director.

THE NEBRASKA BIOCONTAINMENT PATIENT CARE UNIT IS THE LARGEST BIOCONTAINMENT PATIENT CARE UNIT IN THE UNITED STATES.