

The Nebraska Biocontainment Unit and Region VII Special Pathogen Treatment Center is a secured area with a highly trained staff of medical and nursing personnel who safely provide all levels of care to patients infected with deadly infectious diseases.

Unit Functions and Capabilities

Features include:

- Isolation unit and rooms maintain negative pressure gradient with 15 air exchanges per hour
- A high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) – filtration system filters exhausted air
- Secured access, double door, pressure-controlled main entrance
- Unidirectional staff entrance and exit
- Dual “pass-through” autoclaves for decontamination of waste, linens and materials leaving the unit
- Robust secured communication system
- Close proximity to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory BSL III Lab plus satellite BSL III Lab within the NBU
- Located on the UNMC and Nebraska Medicine campus

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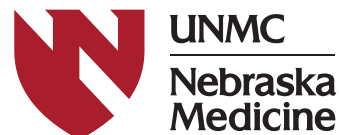
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NEBRASKA BIOCONTAINMENT UNIT

Nebraska Medicine
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The threat of global infectious diseases is very real.

Nebraska is prepared.



National and Regional Recognition

The Nebraska Biocontainment Unit was one of three units selected to care for United States citizens with Ebola virus disease medically evacuated from Africa. Additionally, UNMC and Nebraska Medicine provided quarantine services for American citizens evacuated from Wuhan, China - the original epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ours was among five sites chosen for this emergency mission by the federal government.

U.S. Health and Human Services Region 7 Regional Emerging Special Pathogens Treatment Center

The NBU was selected as one of 10 health departments and associated partner hospitals to become special regional treatment centers for patients with Ebola or other severe, highly infectious diseases.

National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC)

UNMC and Nebraska Medicine, in collaboration with Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and Bellevue Hospital in New York City, New York, were awarded a joint contract by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish and co-lead the nation's National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center.

The biocontainment unit treats patients with highly hazardous communicable diseases in an environment that maximizes the safety of staff and the community. The unit is designed for effective and efficient treatment of highly hazardous communicable diseases, (Ebola virus, viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, Lassa fever, etc. smallpox, and respiratory diseases such as MERS) whether acquired in a laboratory accident, as a naturally occurring infection, or in a bioterrorist attack.

The Nebraska Biocontainment Unit was dedicated in 2005 and drilled for nine years to prepare for activation. The NBU is a collaborative project involving Nebraska Medicine and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

In addition to providing medical care for patients with highly hazardous communicable diseases, the unit has active research and outreach training programs for the region and nation.

Unit personnel consists of a voluntary staff of select physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, and respiratory therapists specially trained in high-level isolation and biopreparedness.

The NBU was opened in 2005 and subsequently activated in the fall of 2014 to receive U.S. citizens with Ebola virus disease medically evacuated from Africa. The outstanding staff received numerous awards for its courageous and extraordinary level of care including recognition from the White House, the Nebraska Legislature, and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. In addition, they were honored as "Midlanders of the Year" by the Omaha World-Herald. In 2020, the NBU was again activated for the care and management of U.S. citizens from Wuhan, China, and the Diamond Princess Cruise ship for SARS-CoV-2.