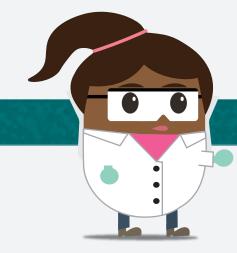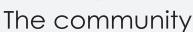# What is **Biosafety?**

Biosafety is the safe use of biohazards to avoid exposure or release into the environment. Biosafety is achieved by knowing the risks, following the rules, and using proper equipment.

Biosafety protects:

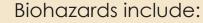The community

The environment

You!

What is a **biohazard?**

A biohazard, or hazardous biological material, is capable of causing a disease in humans or animals. Biohazards should always be handled with special care to avoid exposure or release. The international biohazard symbol ☣ identifies areas or materials that contain a biohazard, even if you can't see it!

Biohazards include:

Bacteria

Fungi

Viruses

Proteins & Toxins

Why work with a **biohazard?**

Biohazards are important to many scientific fields. Studying and experimenting with biohazards helps us to better understand diseases, so that we can discover new and better ways to protect people and animals from the diseases they cause. These fields commonly use biohazards:

Medicine

Research and Development

Education

Environmental Testing

Learn More!

To learn more, visit publichealth.gc.ca/pathogens for free instructional courses, videos and other tools.