Activity 2: Worksheet 2

Workplaces are required to keep their employees and communities safe, so as well as risk assessments, COSHH regulations provide structure to companies to control the storage,  
use and disposal of hazardous substances in their workplace. This means that additional control measures are necessary to maintain a safe working environment for workers and keep communities and the environment safe from these substances. To determine the correct level of additional control measures necessary, hazardous substances are given a Hazard Group based on their potential impact on workers, the community and the environment.

## Researching biohazards and their categorisation

Use the internet, textbooks and fact books to research biohazards. You need to find the COSHH definition of a biohazard, and any additional key words you come across that you are unsure of. You should research how biohazards are categorised into the four Hazard groups and find examples of biohazards that fit into each group.

Write up your notes, create a mind map or fill in a table that details the key differences between biohazards in the four Hazard Groups. You can then use this work for revision.

Include notes on:

* the ability of a biohazard in the group to cause human disease
* how severe the disease is that can be caused
* the likelihood of infection spreading to the community
* the availability of an effective vaccine or treatment for the disease caused by  
  this biohazard.

## Matching biohazards to Hazard Groups

Match the biohazards to the correct Hazard Group:

* The probiotic *Lactobacillus acidophilus*
* Herpes simplex viruses 1 and 2 (treatments are readily available, low fatality rate)
* Yellow fever (vaccines available but not widely given out, high fatality rate)
* Mumps (most of the population is vaccinated against it, low fatality rate)
* *Agrobacterium radiobacter* (a bacterium that can infect humans with weakened immune systems, very low fatality rate).

## Biohazard categorisation

To check your knowledge, use your notes to ensure that you can answer these questions:

1. State the COSHH definition of a biohazard.
2. Describe the difference in infectibility of biohazards in Hazard Group 1 and  
   Hazard Group 2.
3. Describe the difference in availability of vaccines or treatment of biohazards in  
   Hazard Group 3 and Hazard Group 4.
4. Give three examples of biohazards in each of the four Hazard Groups.
5. You will use a number of key terms in this topic. Write a definition for any you are unsure of:
   1. Attenuated
   2. Non-pathogenic
   3. Endoparasite
   4. Effluent
   5. Microorganism
   6. Cell culture
   7. Genetically modified
   8. Infection
   9. Allergy
   10. Toxicity

## Tip:

* Add a reflective note to your course log.