Protocol: Autoclaving procedure

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Precautions:

- Always wear protective gloves, even the steam itself is dangerous and can burn you.
- Use trolleys for easier transportation of hot autoclaved items.
- Always write in the logbook right to the autoclave that we autoclaved.

- Check the water level in the autoclave. The metal plate at the bottom of the autoclave must be covered in water. *If there is not enough water*, fill up water from the hose next to the autoclave until it covers the bottom.
- Place waste or items (*with **loosened lids***) in the designated basket in the autoclave and close the lid tightly (use force). The lower basket can be held 'from the inside' for easier lowering into the autoclave.
- Ensure the valve is open and set timer for **30 min** (heating phase). The temperature should start increasing.
- When 100°C is reached and steam is coming from the pipe over the bucket (after approximately 30 min), close the valve. The pressure should start increasing. *If the pressure is not increasing, there is a leak! Check the O-ring.*
- Let pressure rise to ≈1.1 bar. Then **set the timer for 25 min** (sterilization phase).
- After 25 min, turn the autoclave off if it does not automatically turn off.
- Wait for the pressure to return to 0 bar, but don't touch any valves.
- After the pressure has dropped to 0 bar, open the black valve on the right side and let out any remaining steam.
- Open the lid carefully with gloves and both hands and set it aside.
- Take out the autoclaved items carefully.
- Put back the autoclave lid after use.

- **Bottles with new medium:** let cool down on the bench and then seal.
- **Bottles with waste**:
    - ***Containing antibiotics***: Store in a big plastic bottle in the bacterial waste hood.
    - ***Not containing antibiotics****:* Pour waste down the drain.
- **Tips/tubes**: place in a 60–80°C oven overnight for drying and then remove.

⚠️ If the autoclave does not reach pressure, the cycle is invalid. Check seals and restart.