

# BioNotes

BIOSAFETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL  
2025



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
**Institutional Planning  
and Operations**  
Rutgers Environmental Health and Safety



## Contact Biosafety

Phone: 848-445-2550

Email: [biosafety@rutgers.edu](mailto:biosafety@rutgers.edu)

Website:

<https://ipo.rutgers.edu/rehs/biosafety-program>

## REMINDERS

- As of January 2023, initial Laboratory Safety/Biosafety/Bloodborne Pathogen training must be done in person. Refresher courses will continue to be online.
- Upcoming IBC Submission Deadlines:
  - April 29, 2025
  - May 21, 2025
  - June 24, 2025
  - July 23, 2025
- All biological materials MUST be included in your IBC protocol prior to inclusion in any IACUC/IRB protocols.
- Signage for biohazardous materials in vivariums MUST be maintained for accuracy; this includes posting them and removing them in the correct timeframes.

## BIO-WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Laboratory Space

- Stericycle is the University Vendor for RMW pickup.
- **Non-RBHS RMW Disposal Requests:** Use the online request system.
  - Updates can be coordinated with Greg Drusjack ([greg.drusjack@rutgers.edu](mailto:greg.drusjack@rutgers.edu))
  - RMW boxes will be replaced 1:1 by Stericycle
- **RBHS RMW Disposal:** Environmental Services picks up properly packaged RMW boxes.
  - Do NOT use the online request system
  - RMW boxes will be replaced by Environmental Services
- REHS does NOT provide sharps containers (purchased by lab) or RMW boxes/bags (provided by Stericycle).
- ALWAYS package the RMW cardboard box flat, using clear tape, while keeping the label visible and with the arrows facing up!

## Training

### IATA Category B Training

*IATA Category B training\** is required training for the shipping of biological materials, exempt specimens and dry ice. This training is held only once a month over Webex and must be registered for on the [myrehs.rutgers.edu](https://myrehs.rutgers.edu) Training Calendar page. Refreshers are required every 2-years.

\*Materials of Trade training is included

### Materials of Trade Training

*Materials of Trade (MOT) training* is required training for the transport of biological substances, genetically modified organisms/microorganisms, dry ice and exempt specimens by personal vehicle. Training can only be accessed after emailing [biosafety@rutgers.edu](mailto:biosafety@rutgers.edu) for access and instructions. Refreshers are required every 2-years

*View available trainings on MyREHS*

### Mismanaging of Regulated Medical Waste (RMW)

is not allowed per  
Federal & NJ State  
regulations



RUTGERS  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY



### Regulated Medical Waste Boxes

- Considered full at 2/3's
- Never for disposal of liquids
- Should never have items sticking out
- Not blocking doors, walkways, safety showers, fire extinguishers, or electrical panels



### RMW Secondary Containers

- Must be rigid to prevent punctures and leaks

## GEARING UP FOR THE LAB

Wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and appropriate clothing in a laboratory is a way to protect you when engineering and administrative controls are not adequate.

PPE consists of laboratory coats, safety glasses, and gloves. Depending on your lab, it may include coveralls, respirators, aprons, and other protective gear.

What you wear with the PPE is important, especially in warmer months.

**SHORTS AND OPEN-TOE SHOES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN A LABORATORY SETTING**

Keep a spare change of clothes in the event of contamination!

### *Choosing the Right Lab Coat for You:*

University Procurement has contracts with the following vendors for purchase or rental, repair and laundering of coats:

- Cintas Corp: barrier laboratory coats



- Unitex Textile: clinical laboratory coats



Refer to [ipo.rutgers.edu/rehs/safety/ppe](http://ipo.rutgers.edu/rehs/safety/ppe) for additional information on lab coats and other PPE

### *Appropriate Eye Protection*

Eye protection is required when working with materials on the bench, in a fume hood, or in a biosafety cabinet per OSHA regulation 1910.132. Safety glasses must have frames constructed of metal or plastic, impact-resistant lenses, and side protection as per ANSI standard Z87.1.

Most prescription glasses DO NOT meet safety glasses standards.



## Regulatory Updates

### Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC)

Federal regulations have been updated, and we are implementing the required oversight in conjunction with the Office for Research. The new policy is set to take effect on May 6, 2025. Expect updates within RAPSS and BPMS systems related to policy changes by the effective date.

Official Update Release: [DURC Policy](#)

## AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATES

REHS Biosafety Team is responsible for Rutgers management of both research and public health Avian Influenza concerns. Please reach out to [biosafety@rutgers.edu](mailto:biosafety@rutgers.edu) if you have any questions.

Due to H5N1 prevalence, the USDA has a permit requirement for domestic eggs, poultry products and live poultry transportation.

- Inter- and intra- state transportation - VS permit
- Obtained from active quarantine zone - EMERS permit