



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

TRAINING TELEPHONE



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MEDICAL WASTE INSPECTIONS

Rutgers University is subject to inspections by regulatory agencies, including the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), regarding regulated medical waste (RMW), including bio-related laboratory waste.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Deviations that are discovered by a regulatory agency can lead to citations being issued.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR LAB?

Citations may involve notices of violation, required corrective actions, and/or significant monetary penalties issued to the school and/or the department that created the regulatory departure.

Repeat occurrences lead to increased severity of penalties.



HOW TO KEEP YOUR LABS RMW COMPLIANT

Be familiar with our regulated medical waste requirements, available on the [Biosafety Website](#). A common, easily avoided departure from the regulation is that medical waste items must not exceed the height of the RMW container. This includes sharps containers, cardboard RMW boxes, and even small benchtop bio-waste containers. At Rutgers, we consider two-thirds full to be full enough to start filling a new RMW container. If you find a filled RMW container, carefully correct the issue and replace it with a new one.

DEPARTURES TO AVOID



WHY DO WE NOT WANT WASTE TO LOOK LIKE THIS?

Overfilling is unsafe for everyone, not just the person generating the waste. It also happens to be an easy regulator departure that draws unwanted attention to itself! When RMW is packed correctly, it helps prevent sharps injuries and reduces the risk of exposure.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WASTE?

Ultimately, everyone is! And it all starts with the PI and their lab staff, who have the initial responsibility for ensuring proper identification, safe handling, segregation, and disposal of RMW. However, you all have resources that can provide guidance and assistance. Please feel free to reach out. We are here to assist.

**REHS WILL BE INCREASING RMW OBSERVATIONS
AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

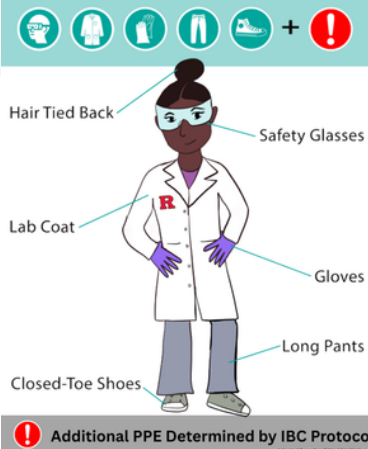
IBCs for the IRBs

Rutgers Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) works with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to help ensure that PIs and associated study personnel are aware of compliance requirements. The biosafety requirements for IRBs can be found on the [Biosafety Requirements for Human Subject Studies PDF](#) under Clinical Research on the [Clinical Safety website](#) or by reaching out to the [biosafety team](#).

What information is needed if reaching out to Biosafety?

- What specimens are you working with and how are they being obtained?
- How will the specimens be transported from the collection location to the laboratory performing the analysis
- Where the specimens will be processed or analyzed (including aliquoting, centrifugation, or other laboratory manipulation)
- Will the specimens be shipped to an external facility, and if so, who will be preparing the shipment
- Your IRB Protocol number, IRB title, IRB contact person and their email

Warm Weather Lab Wear

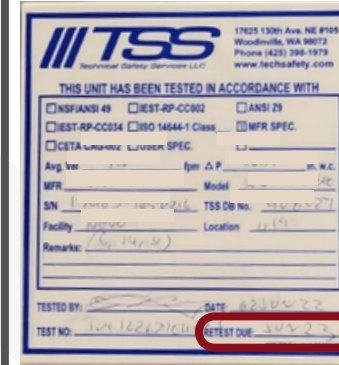


As we approach the warmer months, a gentle reminder that, in addition to your minimum level of personal protective equipment (PPE) as referenced in the image, shorts and open-toe shoes are not appropriate attire for a lab setting. Additional PPE may be required based on your lab work. As a reminder, it is best practice to also keep a spare change of clothes in case of contamination.

Printable Poster [HERE](#)

BIOSAFETY CABINETS

Biosafety cabinets (BSCs) require annual recertification and our vendor (TSS) provides the service.



Make sure your cabinet has not expired by checking the “Retest Due” date.

REHS is aware of scheduling delays for BSC service requests. Since our discussions with TSS, they have begun implementing adjustments to address delays. Thank you for your patience and feedback! Please feel free to reach out if you’re still experiencing delays.

NIH INITIATIVE STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING BIOSAFETY OVERSIGHT

The NIH Initiative has completed the regional listening sessions of Phase I.

While the sessions have been completed, the NIH is still encouraging individuals to submit feedback and comments up until their next phase. Recordings of each session can be found on their website following the Listening Session Links. (<https://osp.od.nih.gov/policies/biosafety-and-biosecurity-policy#tab2/>)

Comments can still be submitted on <https://osp.od.nih.gov/help-modernize-and-strengthen-the-oversight-of-biosafety/>