

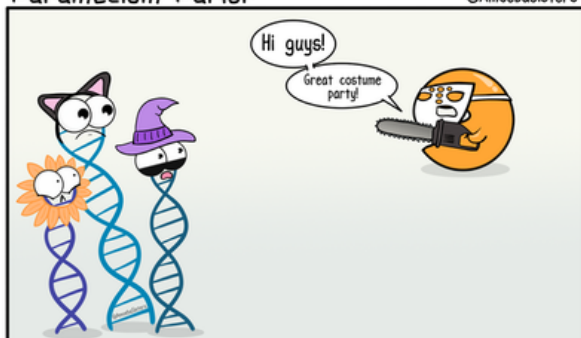
**October  
2025**



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

Paramecium Parlor

@AmoebaSisters



That was the last year the DNA invited the restriction enzyme to their Halloween party.

## Contact Biosafety

Phone: 848-445-2550

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

Website:

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

## hot topic

### Sharps Disposal:

- All syringes and needles **MUST** be discarded in a sharps container
  - Do NOT bend needles
  - Do NOT discard needles in regular trash
- Sharps containers are considered full when sharps have reached the indicated fill line.
- Do NOT autoclave sharps containers

Additional information can be found on page 14 of the Rutgers Bloodborne Pathogen Guide - Handling of Sharps.

<https://ipo.rutgers.edu/rehs/bloodborne-pathogen-guide>

## BIOSAFETY & BIOSECURITY MONTH

October 2025 is the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Month!

In order to increase awareness to our profession and help others develop the skillset to the field we have included links to free webinars. Please take the this time to peruse the available resources to also help further your research plans.

### American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) International

- <https://absa.org/professional-development/>

### American Public Health Laboratory (APHL)

- <https://learn.aphl.org/learn/signin>

## REHS STAFFING CHANGES

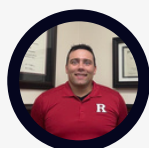
Welcome our newest Senior Biosafety Officer



**Sivarchana Boada**

Senior Biosafety Officer

A bittersweet goodbye to our University Biosafety Officer. We wish him the best in his Vanderbilt journey.



**Ryan McAllister**

University Biosafety Officer

## REMINDERS

- IBC Submission Dates for Meetings
  - October 28, 2025 for November 11, 2025
  - November 19, 2025 for December 3, 2025
  - Refer to the website for additional dates
- All biological materials **MUST** be included in your IBC protocol prior to inclusion in any IACUC/IRB protocols or Grant Submissions

# NIH TRANSPARENCY

A new [NIH Policy](#) requires the publishing of IBC meeting minutes on the Rutgers IBC website. Principal Investigators (PIs) are asked to provide a submission summary with any IBC submission to comply with the NIH expectations. This is to ensure all PIs are aware of what will be publicly available and allow PIs to shape how their work is presented.

According to NIH guidance, summaries should include (as applicable):

- Overview of the protocol submission, including prior approvals only if directly relevant to the current amendment
- Risks associated with the project and risk mitigation methods that go beyond the standard requirements for the assigned biosafety level
- Agent name (e.g. organism(s), host(s) and vector(s)) and key agent characteristics (e.g. virulence, pathogenicity, antibiotic susceptibility, environmental stability)
- Sources of nucleic acid sequences (e.g. species, structural transgene, oncogene, toxin)
- Modifications (e.g. deletions, insertions, mutations to attenuate or render replication incompetent) with references to supporting data
- Experimental manipulations (e.g. tissue culture, animal work)

Examples are available on the currently publicly available minutes on the Rutgers Biosafety Website or by reaching out to [biosafety@rutgers.edu](mailto:biosafety@rutgers.edu).

## Training

### [Initial Laboratory/Biosafety/Bloodborne Pathogens Training](#)

Completion of in-person *Laboratory Safety/Biosafety/Bloodborne Pathogens Training* is **required** prior to working in laboratory settings. Initial training classes are held regularly in Newark and New Brunswick Campuses. Log onto [myrehs.rutgers.edu](https://myrehs.rutgers.edu) and enter the Training Calendar to see where the next session that works best for you is.

## NIH INITIATIVE

### STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE BIOSAFETY OVERSIGHT

The NIH has launched an initiative to modernize biosafety policy. Currently the scope of the NIH Guidelines is focused on recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules. The goals of the initiative are to expand the scope and calibrate the safety oversight to the risks of biomaterials. The NIH has presented a few possible options for how this might be done:

- NIH Guidelines Plus: Current NIH biosafety policy scope of recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid PLUS research with other biohazards to potentially include wild-type agents, proteins and others.
- Harmonized with BMBL: Research involving infectious microorganisms (based on risk groups) and hazardous biological materials.
- Life Sciences Research: Broad category accompanied by criteria and additional guidance about what requires institutional or NIH oversight.

This initiative is currently split into four phases, and in Phase 1 (Fall 2025) the NIH is seeking input from stakeholders and the public via listening sessions and direct submission of comments. Details about this initiative can be found on the NIH Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy website:

<https://osp.od.nih.gov/policies/biosafety-and-biosecurity-policy#tab2/>

Comments can be submitted to the NIH here:

<https://osp.od.nih.gov/help-modernize-and-strengthen-the-oversight-of-biosafety/>

### [Refresher Training](#)

For all who already work in a laboratory setting, completion of a refresher training is **required annually** following the initial laboratory safety/biosafety/bloodborne pathogens training. Refresher training is provided online in [myrehs.rutgers.edu](https://myrehs.rutgers.edu) through the Training Calendar under the Online Training heading. Upon selecting the refresher course, make sure that “biosafety” is included.

View additional available trainings on MyREHS.