

Title: York University Biosecurity Plan			
Dept: Department of Occupational Health and Safety	Reference Number: DOHS-1101	Last Revised: Apr-2011	Page: 1 of 2

1.0 Purpose

The York University Biosafety Program addresses all aspects of containment to prevent exposure to and accidental release of pathogens.

The York University Biosecurity Plan deals with prevention of theft, misuse or intentional release of pathogens.

In accordance with Section 2.6 of the Public Health Agency of Canada's Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines, it is mandatory to have a biosecurity plan for research involving biohazards. Therefore, all biosafety certificate holders must follow this plan.

2.0 Designation of Responsible Official

The Responsible Official (RO) is the person responsible for the development, training, and implementation of safety, security and emergency response plans related to biohazardous materials/agents. The RO must therefore be notified in the event of any theft, loss, or release of biohazardous materials. The RO at York is the Biosafety Officer who also works in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Biological Safety.

3.0 Biohazardous Materials/Agents with a Biosecurity Risk

Work involving biohazardous materials/agents must be authorized by the Advisory Committee on Biological Safety. Therefore all biohazardous materials/agents must be identified and assessed for risk, including biosecurity risk, by submitting a biosafety certificate for approval. Only once approved is the Principal Investigator (PI) permitted to work with the agents.

4.0 Biosecurity Plan Components

4.1 Physical Protection

All CL-1 and CL-2 laboratories must be kept secure by keeping doors locked when unoccupied. Biohazardous materials/agents must be stored securely, such as in a fridge/freezer that can either be locked or in a room that is locked when unoccupied.

Any suspicious behavior near certified labs or storage freezers is to be reported to Campus Security immediately.

Access to animal care facilities is restricted to authorized users and requires card access for entry.

4.2 Personnel Suitability/Reliability

Access to certified laboratories is limited to authorized personnel (ie. faculty, staff, students, volunteers), maintenance and custodial staff, and escorted

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visitors. Authorized personnel must receive biosafety training and lab-specific training before working with biohazardous materials/agents in the lab. Medical surveillance, where required, must also be completed before working with biohazards.

4.3 Pathogen Accountability

Every biosafety certificate holder must maintain an inventory of biological materials/agents for their lab and submit it to the BSO during their annual certificate renewal. The inventory includes what biohazardous materials/agents are stored and where they are stored. Where relevant, quantities may be required during the certificate/risk assessment process. A master list of the biological material/agent inventory will be kept secure and confidential by the BSO, but may be released as required to various government agencies (e.g. Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Public Health Agency of Canada, Environment Canada).

Biohazard labels will be applied to storage units (e.g freezer/fridges).

All biological materials/agents waste and related waste products will be assessed during the certification process. Biomedical microbiological laboratory waste will be sterilized/decontaminated on-site before disposal. All other biomedical waste streams will be removed by a biomedical waste hauler that meets the requirements to transfer, treat and dispose of such waste.

4.4 Incident/Emergency Response

All security incidents must be reported to Campus Security and the RO as soon as possible. Security incidents include, but are not limited to, breach of containment, unauthorized pathogen removal, and unauthorized personnel in restricted areas.

Refer the emergency response procedures:

Spills/Exposure Response

www.yorku.ca/dohs/documents/Biological_Materials_Exposure_Spills_Response.pdf

Contingency Plan for Emergency Situations

www.yorku.ca/dohs/documents/Final-Contingency-plan-for-emergency-situations.pdf

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Reviewed by: YU Advisory Committee on Biological Safety
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