

**JULY  
2025**



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

SUMMER

Students, Under-Managed, Mainly Evade Research  
Sweltering Unproductive Months, Manuscript Expectations Reduced  
"So-so, Unexceptional, Mediocre" - Mean Editorial Reviewer  
Short-term Undergrad Minions Make Experiments Relaxing

WWW.PHDCOMIGS.COM

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Website:

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

**REMINDERS**

- Senior Biosafety Officer Tracy Pfromm has retired and will be missed. Please extend outreach to biosafety@rutgers.edu
- What you wear with PPE is important, especially during these 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
- IBC Submission Dates for Meetings
  - July 23, 2025 for August 6, 2025
  - August 26, 2025 for September 9, 2025
  - September 17, 2025 for October 1, 2025
  - October 28, 2025 for November 11, 2025
- All biological materials MUST be included in your IBC protocol prior to inclusion in any IACUC/IRB protocols or Grant Submissions

*Training*

**Viral Vector Training**

Online training designed for researchers and staff who work with viral vectors, recombinant DNA, synthetic nucleic acids, and genome editing technologies to maintain safety in respect to the risks. Training can be accessed in **myrehs.rutgers.edu** under the Online Training Links in the Training Calendar.

**Clinical Health and Safety**

Annual online training for clinicians, staff, and students working in patient-facing areas. The module satisfies OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen standards. Training is accessed in the Training Calendar under Online Training Links on **myrehs.rutgers.edu**

**View available trainings on myrehs.rutgers.edu**

**DURC  
UPDATE**

Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) institutional enhancements have been implemented as of May 2025 (Biosafety Protocol Management System and the Grants submission system).

These enhancements are an effect of a 2024 Presidential Executive Order to “improve the safety and security of biological research”. The policy was removed on May 5, 2025 by the newly appointed federal administration. On May 6, 2025 a presidential executive order was made public communicating a new executive order related to DURC will be released on or before September 2, 2025.

Future institutional enhancements contingent on the September 2<sup>nd</sup> executive order will be prioritized upon release of the future policy.

Additional information can be found on the Rutgers DURC policy website [here](#) or linked through our website under Biosafety Regulations, Safety Policies & Guidelines.

# FRAMEWORK FOR NUCLEIC ACID SYNTHESIS SCREENING

Framework for Nucleic Acid Synthesis Screening was a 2024 Presidential Executive Order for "improving the safety and security of biological research". It has been online irregularly since January 22, 2025, after the new executive administration took office.

A new presidential executive order related to the Framework for Nucleic Acid Synthesis Screening is expected to be released on or before August 3, 2025.

Additional information can be found on our website under Biosafety Regulations, Safety Policies & Guidelines or [here](#)

## BIOSAFETY CABINETS

If you have questions related to your Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs), don't hesitate to reach out to the Biosafety team.

Rutgers BSCs are maintained by the outside vendor, TSS. All requests for service, annual certification, and decontamination for decommissioning/relocation can be requested on our website ([BSC Service Request](#)).

Best Practices:

- Bring all items needed to BSC prior to starting work
- Do not cover the vents and break containment
- Arrange your items to work from clean to dirty
- Disinfect prior to and after work

## BPMS\* Updates

### Addendum B

Addendum B (Use of Microorganisms) has now been updated with a harmonized list of microorganisms, allowing Principal Investigators and their designees to easily search for their microorganism. The harmonized list will be standardized in denoting pathogen groups based on risk, formatting, and nomenclature. This will provide Principal Investigators broader approvals to achieve experimental outcomes and communication between external entities (e.g. Addendum K).

An option for manual entry still exists for microorganisms not currently found. The entries will be reviewed by the Biosafety team to either generate a new entry for the microorganism or assign it to an existing nomenclature.

\* Biosafety Protocol Management System

### Addendum K

Addendum K (Work with Synthetic Nucleic Acids) is newly implemented for Principal Investigators who work with synthetic nucleic acids to facilitate orders related to Sequences of Concern.

International Gene Synthesis Consortium providers for synthetic nucleic acids have been screening for sequences of concern since 2010. Methodologies are expected to become more robust for these screenings.

As a proactive approach to verify legitimacy concerns of third-party providers Addendum K will automatically generate an assurance letter. When completed and IBC is approved, an Assurance of Legitimacy approval letter will be available in the File Cabinet section to submit with orders.