

Policies of the University of North Texas	Chapter 15
15.009 Biosafety	Risk Management Services



<b>Policy Number and Chapter:</b>	<b>15.009</b>	Risk Management Services
<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Biosafety</b>	

**Policy Statement.** The University of North Texas has established guidelines for the proper use of biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, and recombinant DNA molecules in research and other educational activities.

**Application of Policy.** Total University.

**Definitions.**

1. **Biohazardous agents.** “Biohazardous Agents” means any microorganism (including, but not limited to, bacteria, chlamydia, and their phages and plasmids, viruses, fungi, mycoplasmas, rickettsia, protozoa, parasites, or prions) or infectious substance, human and non-human primate tissues, body fluids, blood, blood byproducts, and cell lines, animal remains and insects that may harbor zoonotic pathogens, or any naturally occurring, bioengineered, or synthesized component of any such microorganism or infectious substance which are capable of causing: death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human, animal, plant, or another living organism; deterioration of food, water, equipment, supplies, or material of any kind; or deleterious alteration of the environment.
2. **Principal Investigator.** “Principal Investigator” means any UNT faculty member, staff employee, or student conducting research or other educational activities utilizing UNT facilities or due to their status as a UNT employee or student involving biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, or recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules.
3. **Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid (r/s NA) Molecules.** “Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid (r/s NA) Molecules” means molecules that are constructed outside living cells by joining natural or synthetic nucleic acid segments to nucleic acid molecules that can replicate in a living cell, i.e., recombinant nucleic acids, or -Molecules that result from the replication of those described above, and -Synthetic nucleic acid segments which are likely to yield a potentially harmful polynucleotide or polypeptide.

**Procedures and Responsibilities.**

Principal Investigators shall assume primary responsibility for the proper use, handling and

disposal of all biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, and recombinant r/s NA molecules in research or other educational activities conducted utilizing UNT facilities or due to their status as a UNT employee or student. For any research or educational use of biohazardous agents, human materials, or recombinant DNA molecules, UNT requires compliance with Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (current version), the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (current version), the OSHA and Texas Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standards, the UNT Biosafety Manual, the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) Charter, and any additional guidelines adopted by the UNT IBC. To protect students, faculty, staff, the community, and the environment, the IBC and the Biosafety Officer are authorized to review and monitor all research and other educational activities involving biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, and recombinant DNA molecules, whether such research is funded or not. Failure to comply with this policy and the associated manuals and guidelines will result in a review by the IBC and possible suspension or revocation of approval by the IBC to work with biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, and recombinant DNA molecules, and may result in disciplinary action under the procedures applicable to faculty, staff, and students.

1. Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The UNT Institutional Biosafety Committee is responsible for the oversight of all research and teaching activities involving potentially hazardous biological materials and recombinant or synthetic DNA molecules. IBC responsibilities and membership are outlined in the IBC Charter and are reviewed and updated annually.

Responsible Party: IBC

2. Biosafety Officer. The Biosafety Officer shall be appointed by the Sr. Vice President for Finance and Administration. The responsibilities of the Biosafety Officer are outlined in the IBC Charter and are reviewed annually and updated as required.

Responsible Party: Sr. Vice President for Finance and Administration, Biosafety Officer

3. Principal Investigator. The responsibilities of the Principal Investigator are outlined in the UNT Biosafety Manual and are reviewed annually and updated as required.

Responsible Party: Principal Investigator

4. Biosafety Protocol (BSP) Registrations and Approvals. Guidelines on the submission requirements for biosafety protocols and approvals are outlined in the IBC Charter and detailed in the UNT Biosafety Manual.

Responsible Party: Principal Investigators, IBC

5. Use of Animals, Human Subjects or Radiation. In addition to IBC registration and approval, any research or other educational activity involving biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, or recombinant DNA molecules in conjunction with the use of animals, human subjects, or radiation also requires approval from the appropriate UNT committees:

**Animals** – Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

**Human Subjects** – Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB).

**Radiation** – Radiation Safety Committee (RSC).

Review of proposed research or educational activities by the above committees may run parallel with review by the IBC.

Responsible Party: Principal Investigator, IACUC, IRB, RSC

6. Termination or Suspension of Research or Other Educational Activity. A Principal Investigator who willfully or negligently violates federal, state, or UNT guidelines governing the use of biohazardous agents, potentially hazardous human materials, or recombinant DNA molecules may have his/her IBC approval suspended by the IBC, pending further investigation and final action by the IBC. In the event the IBC's final action includes revocation of IBC approval for the use, the IBC is authorized to notify any sponsoring agency of such action.

Responsible Party: IBC

7. Procedure for Reporting Violations. Any suspected violation of this policy may be reported to:
  - A. the UNT Biosafety Officer at the telephone number or e-mail address indicated on the Risk Management Services website,
  - B. the UNT IBC at [biosafety@unt.edu](mailto:biosafety@unt.edu), or
  - C. the UNT Compliance Office at [www.unt.edu/compliance](http://www.unt.edu/compliance).

All such reports will be referred to the IBC for review, and if warranted, an investigation to determine if corrective action is needed.

Responsible Party: Biosafety Officer, Compliance Office, IBC

### **References and Cross-references.**

*Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Current Version](#)

*NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules (NIH Guidelines)*, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Current Version](#)

*Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standards*, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 29 C.F.R. 1910.1030.

Texas Bloodborne Pathogens Standards, Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, §96.101-§96.501

[UNT Biosafety Manual](#)

[UNT IBC Charter](#)

### **Forms and Tools.**

<https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/environmental-risk/biosafety/institutional-biosafety-committee-ibc>

<https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/environmental-risk/biosafety>

**Revision History**

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