

FORWARD

This policy and procedures manual has been developed by the University of Washington Institutional Biosafety Committee and the Environmental Health and Safety Department to provide information to protect workers and the surrounding environment and to achieve compliance with applicable standards and regulations. The information also serves to protect experiments by controlling spread of contamination.

The premise is that no experiment should be considered so important that it cannot be done safely. Planning for and implementation of biohazard control to prevent laboratory-acquired infections and to control spread of contamination must be a part of every laboratory activity in which biological materials are used.

The handling of biological agents and recombinant DNA requires the use of various precautionary measures depending on the agent(s) involved. It is the purpose of this manual to provide general guidelines for evaluation, containment and control of biohazards, categorized as to degree of risk of infection.

Implementation of these policies and procedures is the responsibility of the principal investigator and depends largely on the efforts of laboratory supervisors and employees. It is essential that they seek additional advice and training when needed to conduct research in a manner which is safe to employees, students and the surrounding community. To assist in this endeavor, the services of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety are available at the University.

First Edition - July, 1978
Second Edition - January, 1993
Updated - July, 1997
Administrative Changes – January 2003

[Forward To Section I](#)

[Back to Biosafety Manual Table of Contents](#)