



# 2019 NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MONTH

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# WHAT IS BIOSAFETY?

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- The containment of potentially harmful biological agents
- Requires the use of safe practices, training, facilities, and equipment
- Provides protection for people, animals, and the environment



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

# INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE

## University of Washington

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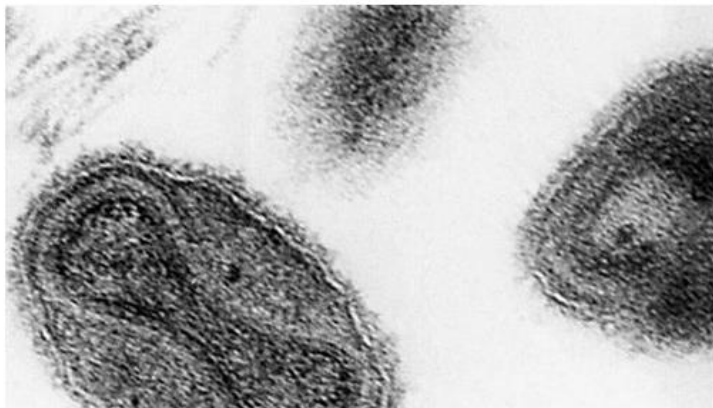
- \$1.4 billion total federal research funding per year
- 4,100 total lab spaces at UW
- 1,700 lab spaces registered with IBC
- 525 Principal Investigators registered with IBC
- 604 research protocols registered



# NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MONTH

- Started in 2014 by the NIH Office of Science Policy
- A time to focus attention to biosafety policies, practices, and procedures

## Smallpox find was among hundreds of other long-lost vials, FDA says



This 1975 electron micrograph shows the smallpox virus. Long-lost vials of smallpox and other biological samples were found July 1, 2014, at a government lab in Bethesda, Md. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

SCIENCE

### *C.D.C. Closes Anthrax and Flu Labs After Accidents*


By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr. JULY 11, 2014

After potentially serious back-to-back laboratory accidents, federal health officials announced Friday that they had temporarily closed the flu and anthrax laboratories at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and halted shipments of all infectious agents from the agency's highest-security labs.

The accidents, and the C.D.C.'s emphatic response to them, could have important consequences for the many laboratories that store high-risk agents and the few that, more controversially, specialize in making them safer for research purposes.

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#### Related Coverage

 **Related story: Oops: Fox smallpox discovered in storage room near D.C.**  
JUL. 8, 2014

# NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MONTH AT UW

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

### SHARPS SAFETY IN RESEARCH

SAFE WORK PRACTICES ARE ESSENTIAL TO PREVENT INJURIES WHEN WORKING WITH SHARP ITEMS.

#### SHARPS USE IN RESEARCH

Sharps are items that are used to cut or puncture skin or body parts. They include needles, scalpels, lancets, and contaminated broken glass. Other sharp items can still cause injuries although they do not fit the regulatory definition of sharps waste. These items include broken glass, glass septum vials, glass pipets, and even the sharp teeth and nails of research animals. For detailed descriptions and definitions of sharps, see the [EH&S Sharps and Laboratory Glass webpage](#). Use the [Sharps and Lab Glass Waste poster](#) to help identify sharps.

Many types of sharps are commonly used in laboratory procedures. Sharps devices may be used to inject animals with biological or chemical agents, to perform blood draws, and to dissect tissues and organs. Some commonly use glass pipets.

#### Know the risks

Take the time to educate yourself on the biological or chemical agent you will use with a sharp. Review the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). If using sharps with infectious agents, human material, recombinant DNA, or biological toxins, review the risks and exposure response procedures. Familiarize yourself with the risks that different animal procedures present. Certain blood draw and injection techniques are more difficult to perform or have inherent risks.

#### Get training and practice

Make sure you are trained by proficient personnel before using a sharp for the first time or for new procedures and techniques. If a standard operating procedure (SOP) does not exist for your procedure, work with your supervisor to prepare one. Become proficient by practicing with a less hazardous organism or chemical first. Complete the required [EH&S training](#): Biosafety training for use of



WHAT'S  
IN YOUR  
FREEZER?

Not sure?  
Contact us.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

### EXPOSURE RESPONSE

for biological, chemical, or radiological exposures

CALL 911 FOR ANY LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY

#### 1. PERFORM FIRST AID

**Needlestick, sharps injury, puncture wound, or animal bite/scratch**

Wash exposed area thoroughly for 15 minutes with warm water and sudsing soap.

**Eye exposure**

Use eye wash to flush eyes for 15 minutes while holding eyes open.

**Skin exposure**

Use nearest safety shower for 15 minutes. Stay under the shower and remove clothing. Use a clean lab coat or spare clothing to cover.

**Inhalation**

Move out of contaminated area and get help.

#### 2. GET MEDICAL HELP

**For chemical or radiological exposure or emergency:**

Call 911 and follow the instructions given. Provide information about exposure including chemical name, dose, route, time since exposure, and Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

**For biological and all other exposures:**

During business hours (Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.):

- Call the Employee Health Center at 206.685.1026.
- Harborview sites call 206.744.3081.

If Employee Health Center is closed:

- Call 911 and follow the instructions given.

Notify your supervisor. Secure the area before leaving.

#### 3. REPORT THE INCIDENT

**During business hours (Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.):**

- Call the EH&S main phone line at 206.543.7262.

**Outside of business hours:**

- Call 206.685.UWPD (8973) to reach EH&S staff on call.

**Incidents and near misses:**

Submit a report via the UW Online Accident Report (OARS) within 24 hours at <https://oars.ehs.washington.edu>

[www.ehs.washington.edu](http://www.ehs.washington.edu)



# 2019 – BEYOND THE LAB

## 1. Transport biohazards safely



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APPENDIX C – TRANSPORTING AND SHIPPING BIOHAZARDS  
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### APPENDIX C – TRANSPORTING AND SHIPPING BIOHAZARDS

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#### A. TRANSPORTING BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This section outlines the proper procedure for transporting biohazardous agents and laboratory specimens within buildings and between buildings, including recDNA waste, refer to the appropriate section of the manual for packaging so that PPE is not needed during transport.

##### 1. Within Building

When packing biohazardous agents and laboratory specimens in public areas, the following guidelines apply:



# 2019 – BEYOND THE LAB

## 2. Keep PPE inside the laboratory

**No PPE  
Outside the Lab**



Do not wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in public spaces such as hallways, elevators, restrooms, breakrooms, or offices.



# 2019 – BEYOND THE LAB

## 3. Follow instructions for waste packaging and disposal



- **Sharps waste and broken glassware** must be packaged in red sharps containers
  - no larger than 11 x 13 x 16
  - no more than two-thirds full\*\*



- **Solid biohazardous waste** must be packaged in an autoclavable biohazard bag
  - no larger than 19 x 23
  - attach autoclave tape





# OUTREACH

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- Email to biosafety PIs and lab managers
- EH&S newsletter article
- Article featured on EH&S homepage
- Office of Research web
- MRAM, U Wide Safety Committee, IBC presentations



# 2019 BIOSAFETY PROGRAM UPDATES

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- Sharps definition update (syringes without needles no longer a sharp)
- Shipping biohazardous waste training now online
- Sharps Safety Outreach Pilot Project in progress
- New IBC coordinator!
- New biosafety officer!



# HAPPY BIOSAFETY MONTH!!

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