

Western Michigan University
Microbiological
Safety And Security
Policy

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I. Purpose

To ensure that all teaching, research, and clinical activities involving the use of potentially hazardous microbial agents and/or their products are conducted in a safe and secure environment at Western Michigan University (WMU).

NOTE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recombinant DNA - Recombinant DNA biosafety is under the auspices of the Recombinant DNA Biosafety Committee (RDBC).2. Animal care and use – Animal care and use is under the auspices of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.3. Occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens – Blood-borne pathogens exposure control is under the auspices of the Division of Environmental Health and Safety.4. Copies of this policy, procedures, and related materials are located in the Office of the Vice President For Research
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II. Requirements

A. General

WMU recognizes biosafety and biosecurity as two distinct but integrated arms of an effective microbiological safety program.

1. This policy applies to all individuals involved in the use and/or storage of potentially hazardous microbial agents and/or their products.
2. The vice president for research shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy.
3. WMU has adopted the biosafety procedures and guidelines described in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Institutes of Health (CDC/NIH) *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories 4th ed.* (BMBL) published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, May 1999, and all future amendments to ensure the safe use, storage, transport, and security of all microbial agents.
4. Procedures, both broad-based (University level) and lab-specific, shall be developed and enacted in order to effectuate and enforce this policy, and shall be amended as needed to best accomplish the purpose of this policy.
5. The Biosafety Coordinating Committee (BCC) may formulate and recommend to the vice president for research additional controls as

deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the staff, students, and the public at large.

6. This policy requires adherence to the procedures and guidelines established and/or approved for the safe use, storage and transport of and the security of microbial agents. This includes, but is not limited to, the 4th edition of the BMBL and all future amendments, WMU microbiological safety procedures, and lab-specific procedures.
7. This policy requires all individuals involved in the use and/or storage of potentially hazardous microbial agents and/or their products cooperate and assist in any investigation of alleged noncompliance with the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies that govern the use or security of microbial agents.

B. Biosafety

1. WMU expressly prohibits the use and/or storage of Class 4 Agents as listed in the National Institutes of Health's guidelines, unless a Biosafety Level 4 facility is constructed.
2. No work may be conducted with restricted animal pathogens as listed in Appendix D to the BMBL, which are strictly prohibited by law, or by the United States Department of Agriculture.

C. Biosecurity

1. The standards and guidelines set forth in Appendix F, "Laboratory Security and Emergency Response for Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories," to the BMBL constitute the requirements and actions necessary to ensure the security of both the users and the agents.
2. The Department of Public Safety is to handle suspicious letters, packages, or other material. This is to be done in such a manner that keeps the material out of all University research, clinical, and/or teaching facilities and isolated from the general public.

III. Sanctions for Non-Compliance

In the event an individual fails to comply with the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies that govern the use or security of microbial agents, the University will take the recourse deemed appropriate, including but not limited to, meetings to resolve and prevent recurrence of issues, suspension or termination of research and/or teaching privileges, and/or actions under the policy for research misconduct.