

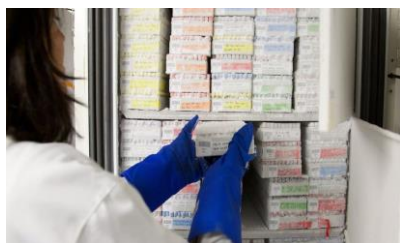
BIOSAFETY BULLETIN

WVU EHS Biosafety- Biosafety Month, October 2023

October is ABSA International's Biosafety and Biosecurity Month. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event. This event is our time to raise awareness of biosafety's role in supporting responsible and ethical research through stewardship, engagement, and fostering a positive safety culture within the research community.

For 2023, we'd like to focus on biological culture and sample storage.

Does your freezer or fridge look like this?



1. Annually, review the inventory of your cold storage.
2. Identify biohazards including: pathogenic microorganisms, plasmids and viral vectors, human-derived materials (blood, body fluids, tissue, cell lines) and biological toxins.
3. If the samples are unneeded, unwanted, abandoned, orphaned or old/expired, discard as biohazardous waste.
4. Also, discard any non-biohazardous samples that are unneeded, unwanted, orphaned, abandoned or old/expired.
5. Finally, determine if the biohazards you are retaining are registered, or need to be registered on an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) protocol.
6. Disinfect the inside surfaces and defrost cold storage as necessary.

Do I need an IBC protocol?

Research involving the following types of biohazard samples* require an IBC protocol:

- **Recombinant DNA (rDNA):** including plasmids and viral vectors, the creation of transgenic animals or plants, and human gene transfer.
- **Pathogens:** Any pathogenic microorganisms, bacteria, fungi, parasites, rickettsia, viruses, prions,
- **Human derived materials:** Any human blood, body fluids, unfixed tissue, patient-derived tumor samples, medical devices, and all human and primate derived cell lines.
- **Biologically Active Agents:** Any biological toxins, allergens, poisonous plants, or venoms.
- **Exotic Plants, Animals, or Microbes:** Research including any organisms not indigenous to the area

Contact WVU EHS Biosafety with questions about any samples, biohazard waste disposal, or IBC guidance.

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*Other types of research may require IBC protocols, but do not relate to laboratory samples. See WVU Biosafety website (IBC Overview) for a complete list.