Biosecurity Reminders

All facilities that store/conduct activities with regulated biological agents are required to having a biosecurity plan in place. This is intended to prevent the loss, theft, misuse, diversion, or intentional release of biological assets (i.e., pathogens, toxins and other regulated infectious material) and related facility assets (e.g., non-infectious biological material, equipment, animals, sensitive information).

This includes:

- NOT sharing information about possessing regulated biological agents, protocols on propagating or manipulating pathogens with others, especially on public platforms like social media.
- Keeping doors to rooms with regulated biological agents closed at all times and locked when no one is present.

More information on biosecurity requirements can be found in Canadian Biosafety Guideline: Developing a Comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Public Health Agency of Canada Inspection

On July 25th and 26th, the Biosafety Program and a group of U of M Researchers participated in a routine compliance inspection as part of our Risk Group 3 Human Pathogens and Toxins License. Public Health Agency inspectors identified a few minor non-compliance issues which will be addressed according to deadlines established by The Agency.

The compliance inspection for our Risk Group 2 License is still pending and it is reasonable to expect it will occur in the next 12 months or so. This inspection will cover the vast majority of biological agent users at the U of M. During this inspection users can expect Agency inspectors to visit their labs potentially without prior notice.
**FYI: Biological Safety Cabinet Technical Tips**

In order to maximize the containment and isolation functions of biological safety cabinets air flow disturbances must be minimized. The following measures should be taken:

- Work at the BSC should be conducted by one person at a time
- Refrain from walking in front of the cabinet while in use
- Don’t run fans in the vicinity of the cabinet while in use
- Keep front and rear air grilles clear of obstruction
- Storage of supplies in the cabinet is discouraged

More information on proper BSC use can be found in the [Canadian Biosafety Handbook](http://umanitoba.ca/biosafety) (Chapter 11)

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**General Updates and Reminders**

**Training:**

- Refresher training is no longer available for personnel to bring their biosafety training up-to-date. All new personnel and those with out of date training will be required to complete the current version of biosafety training that is available.

- Material covered in the refresher training is available as a [resource document](http://umanitoba.ca/biosafety).

**Summer Lab Clean Up:**

- Feel free to drop off any hazardous waste to 071/074 Brodie, 10am-12pm, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month.

- Don’t forget to update your biosafety permits to include or remove personnel.

Contact us at [biosafety.program@umanitoba.ca](mailto:biosafety.program@umanitoba.ca) for any other concerns or questions!

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Adapted from Jon Robinson (The Daily Princetonian)