April 2020
Environmental Health and Safety

Biological Safety Edition

Biosafety Program Permits

We are currently at ~70% adoption of the new program permit system! If you are continuing research with unfixed biological agents, we strongly encourage you to apply for a biosafety program permit if not done so already. More information on the biosafety program permit process and submission deadline dates can be found on our webpage.

Note: If you have not updated your permit or released research funds since 2018, you are currently not in the new program permit system.

Consultations for FAAFs and Research Funds

To ensure compliance with funding agencies and University procedures, we are available to provide reviews of grant applications at the time of funding applications to determine if the described work is subject to biosafety permitting. Contact us at biosafety.program@umanitoba.ca

Missing Biosafety Approvals

The biosafety program can now review research fund applications to confirm that the appropriate declarations are made on FAAFs based on the scope of research described in the application. If there are funds you have not received biosafety approval for—either through the current program permit system or the previous BPAC process—amend your program permit to add these funds. If we discover funds that have been released without the proper declarations and approvals, this may trigger a Responsible Conduct of Research investigation.

New Biosafety Training

We have launched two new training courses! We have updated our Generic Biosafety Training (GBS20). Any personnel who is new to the university or has out-of-date training (i.e., has not completed GBS 16 or refresher training) will need to complete the current version of GBS to be compliant.

As well, we have launched Biosafety Emergency Response Planning Training. The current GBS20 includes this training in Module 4 and is also offered separately for those who have completed previous versions of GBS (i.e., completed before April 1st 2020).

Information on how to self-register for these online courses can be found here: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/vp_admin/risk_management/ehso/bio_safety/biotraining.html

Sponsored Accounts for Online Training

EHS will no longer provide sponsored accounts to access training in UMLearn. Supervisors will need to sponsor individual accounts for their personnel through IST to access training.