

January
2026



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
**Institutional Planning
and Operations**
Rutgers Environmental Health and Safety

Tips for Updating your IBC protocol

In order to best help expedite the review process for your IBC protocols please assist us and verify information in the following sections before submitting (Addenda only if applicable):

- PI Information: contact information is up to date and all permit information is listed
- Employees/Workers: all staff is listed with their responsibilities
- Locations of Study: all locations that are utilized for storage, use, or autoclaving of biologicals are listed
- Risk Assessment: updated timeframes of searches are included
- Addendum A-1: ensure gene targets are up-to-date
- Addendum B: all microorganisms are listed
- Addendum C: update IRB information
- Addendum D: all biologicals or recombinant materials administered to animals are listed
- Addendum E: all human or non-human primate materials are listed

Please ensure that you select 'Save Progress' between sections to save any changes made.

Summarize changes made in the pink submission summary box.

HE'S MAKING A LIST
HE'S CHECKING IT TWICE
HE'S MAKING SURE EXCEL DIDN'T
CONVERT ANY GENE NAME INTO A
DATE



PEDROMICS

Prior BioNotes available on Biosafety Website

Contact Biosafety

Phone: 848-445-2550

Email: biosafety@rutgers.edu

Website:

<https://ipo.rutgers.edu/rehs/biosafety-program>

2026 BIOSAFETY TEAM

Meet the Biosafety team!

New Brunswick Office



Brian Eggert
Senior Biosafety Officer

Welcome to our new
**Senior Biosafety Officer,
Marija!**



Jacquelyn Vidal
Assistant Biosafety Officer



Marija Borjan
Senior Biosafety Officer

Newark Office



Blas Peixoto
Biosafety Officer



Sivarchana Boada
Senior Biosafety Officer



Robert Adcock
Biosafety Officer



Sophia Cheng
Assistant Biosafety Officer

NIH INITIATIVE STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE BIOSAFETY OVERSIGHT

The NIH has launched an initiative to modernize the current biosafety policy to expand the scope and calibrate the safety oversight to the risk of the biomaterials. The NIH has posed a few possible options and the details are found on their website. The initiative is currently in Phase 1 and the NIH is currently seeking input from stakeholders and the public via listening sessions and comment submissions. The proposed changes and dates for upcoming listening sessions are found here: [NIH Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy](#).

COGR, the authority and unified voice on federal policies and regulations affecting academic research institutions, has submitted comments in response to the NIH initiative which can be found here: [COGR Comments](#).

While Biosafety has been attending the listening sessions and has offered comments, this is the opportunity for individuals (researchers or associated) to comment on the proposal and offer insight.

Comments can be submitted to the NIH here: [NIH - Modernize and Strengthen Oversight of Biosafety Comments](#)

INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATES

2026 IBC Meeting and Submission Dates

Meeting Day	Submission Deadline
Wednesday, December 3	Wednesday, November 19
Tuesday, January 13	Tuesday, December 19
Wednesday, February 4	Wednesday, January 14
Tuesday, March 10	Tuesday, February 17
Wednesday, April 1	Wednesday, March 11
Tuesday, May 12	Tuesday, April 21
Wednesday, June 3	Wednesday, May 13
Tuesday, July 14	Tuesday, June 23
Wednesday, August 5	Wednesday, July 15
Tuesday, September 8	Tuesday, August 18
Wednesday, October 7	Wednesday, September 16
Tuesday, November 10	Tuesday, October 20
Wednesday, December 2	Wednesday, November 11

Why PIs are being asked for a detailed Submission Summary?

Principal Investigators (PIs) are asked to provide a submission summary with any IBC submission to ensure awareness on how their work will be publicly presented as per new NIH transparency requirements of IBC Minutes.

PIs are asked to include (as applicable):

- Overview of the current submission including references to applicable prior approved material, if relevant
- Risks and mitigation methods above the required practices
- Agent name, hosts, vectors, and key characteristics
- Sources of nucleic acid sequences (e.g. species, transgene, oncogene, etc.)
- Modifications (e.g. insertions, deletions, etc.) with references to supporting data
- Experimental manipulations

Submission summary examples are available on the REHS Biosafety website.

Welcome to our new biosafety committee co-chair, Dr. Sergei Kotenko!

Dr. Kotenko's research into advancing the knowledge of cytokines in immune response and pathogenesis has helped in the development of strategies to combat cancer.

Interesting Bio in the News

For all our researchers doing fieldwork as biosafety is not limited to lab work only, New Jersey recently had the first recorded case of death caused by Alpha-gal Syndrome (AGS) through a lone star tick bite. Please remain vigilant, as ticks are active during mild winter days.

Alpha-gal Syndrome is more commonly known as red meat allergy or tick bite meat allergy. Alpha-gal is a naturally produced molecule in mammals (excluding humans) and ticks can potentially transfer alpha-gal from its saliva into a person's blood during a bite. The human body will identify alpha-gal as a threat and trigger a potentially life-threatening response. While most commonly associated with the lone star tick, other tick species have been associated with AGS.

More information: <https://www.cdc.gov/alpha-gal-syndrome/about/index.html#>

OBSERVATIONS FROM BIO

- Regulated Medical Waste containers are considered full when they reach two-thirds full. Please package RMW for disposal at that time.
- All biological materials MUST be included in an IBC protocol to reduce delays during REHS congruency reviews of IACUC protocols, IRB protocols, and new awards in RAPSS.
- All work related injuries and/or accidental exposures must be reported via the online Accident and Incident Reporting System in MyREHS by the PI or Supervisor
- The Biosafety website allows for anonymous reporting of biohazardous concerns, or feel free to reach out directly to us at biosafety@rutgers.edu