Principal Investigator Biosafety Responsibilities

The Principal Investigator has the responsibility and authority for assessing risks, establishing laboratory policies and procedures, training lab personnel, and maintaining laboratory facilities and equipment.

The Principal Investigator is responsible for:

- Performing appropriate initial risk assessment of research projects. The level of detail should be dependent on the hazard associated with the organism under study. Each evaluation should be completed before work is undertaken and the project should be reassessed periodically as new data is obtained.

- Developing policies governing the operation of the laboratory and implementing protocols to ensure safe operation.

- No human or animal pathogen should be studied without prior written approval of the WVU Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

- Instructing students and staff of potential hazards and the application of appropriate safety practices and procedures within their laboratories.

- Inform the laboratory staff of the reasons and provisions for any precautionary medical practices advised or requested (e.g., vaccinations or serum collection).

- Approving research personnel to work in the laboratory and documenting that personnel are competent to conduct the work.

- Supervise laboratory staff to ensure that the required safety practices and techniques are employed.

- Ensure the integrity of physical containment (e.g., biological safety cabinets) and biological containment (e.g., purity and genotypic and phenotypic characteristics).

- Comply with permit and shipping requirements for biological materials.

- Maintaining a liaison with the Biosafety Office.

- Report any significant problems pertaining to the operation and implementation of containment practices and procedures, violations of the *NIH Guidelines,* or any significant research-related accidents and illnesses to the IBC, OBA, and, as applicable, the Biological Safety Officer, Greenhouse or Animal Facility Director, and other appropriate authorities.