

Biosafety Officer Responsibilities

The WVU Institutional Biosafety Officer (BSO) provides expert technical consultation and is responsible for developing, implementing, coordinating, and maintaining a comprehensive biosafety, biocontainment, and biosecurity management program for all units of WVU, including regional campuses to ensure compliance with appropriate regulatory requirements for research and teaching laboratories (BSL1/BSL2, ABSL1/ABSL2 & BL1-P/BL2P).

The BSO develops biological safety resources, educational material, fact sheets, and white papers for university, college, department and/or community research activities, performs laboratory inspections, develops/presents training in accordance with the requirements of WVU policy and federal and state regulations, and investigates research and teaching laboratory accidents.

Research operations involving infectious agents, recombinant DNA (genetic engineering) samples of biological origin, and associated hazards are overseen for compliance with the National Institute of Health (NIH) Guidelines under the Vice President for Research. The BSO communicates directly with all federal, state, and local biosafety regulatory agencies and interprets new and changing regulatory issues.

Under the purview of the BSO are all Bio-Safety Level 3 "containment" labs, designed specifically for high-hazard work with infectious agents. Management and performance of these containment facilities are held to higher standards and are closely monitored for compliance with the Federal Biosafety guidelines.

Please contact the WVU BSO at 304-293-5799 (john.hando@mail.wvu.edu) for any of the following and any other biosafety related matters you may need help with:

- Preparation of standard operating procedures for the safe use, storage, transport, and disposal of biohazards.
- Registering your research work with the WVU Institutional Biosafety Committee.
- Training on a variety of topics related to biosafety and animal biosafety.