

BIOSAFETY POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline Brock's commitment to manage and control administratively biosafety and biosecurity risks in accordance to the requirements set out in the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act; Health of Animals Act; Plant Protection Act and their associated Regulations.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to faculty, staff and students who handle, store or dispose of biohazardous materials as established in the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act; Health of Animals Act; Plant Protection Act and their associated Regulations.

POLICY STATEMENT

Brock University is committed to manage and control biosafety and biosecurity risks through the provision and maintenance of a biosafety program.

The University will maintain a biosafety program comprised of this Policy, the Biosafety Sub-committee of the Academic Safety Committee (ASC), the Administrative Oversight Plan, and the Biosafety Manual. Roles and Responsibilities within the Program are as outlined in the Terms of Reference of the Biosafety Sub-committee.

Brock University will maintain a Biosafety Manual containing all required information to conduct work with biohazards in a safe and responsible manner and will outline the steps for obtaining and maintaining biohazard permits. This information is based on the Canadian Biosafety Standards, Containment Standards for Facilities Handling Aquatic Animals Pathogens, Containment Standard for Facilities Handling Plant Pests, and other applicable legislation, standards and guidelines both internal and external.

The biosafety program is managed and maintained by the Biosafety Officer within Health, Safety and Wellness.

DEFINITIONS

Biosafety: Containment principles, technologies, and practices that are implemented to prevent unintentional exposure to infectious material and toxins, or their accidental release.

Biosecurity: Security measures designed to prevent the loss, theft, misuse, diversion, or intentional release of pathogens, toxins, and other related assets (e.g., personnel, equipment, non-infectious material, and animals).

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

This Policy is under the jurisdiction of Health, Safety & Wellness. The interpretation and application of this Policy is the responsibility of the Biosafety Officer.

Compliance with this Policy shall be monitored by the Biosafety Officer through inspections and audits of areas and activities where biohazardous material are handled and/or stored.

Failure to abide by this Policy may result in the University's inability to obtain a biohazard license, or revocation of the biohazard license by the relevant federal agency.

Violations of this Policy may be brought forward to the members of the Brock Biosafety Sub-committee of the Academic Safety Committee and/or Biosafety Officer. Violations will be handled as outlined in the ASC Terms of Reference. The violation procedures are in accordance with the Brock Responsible Conduct of Research Policy and applicable legislation.

Policy owner:	AVP, Human Resources
Authorized by:	Board of Trustees, Human Resources Committee
Effective date:	November 2022
Next review:	December 2025
Revision history:	December 2015, 2016, 2019, 2022
Related documents:	Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (S.C. 2009, c. 24) Human Pathogens and Toxins Regulations (SOR/2015-44) Health of Animals Act (S.C. 1990, c. 21) Plant Protection Act (S.C. 1990, c. 22)