



December 1, 2021

Institutional Biosafety Committee Administration Transition from Office of Research Integrity to Environmental Health & Safety

Starting January 2022, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) administration will be transitioning from Office of Research Integrity (ORI) within Research and Economic Development (RED) to Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) within Planning, Budget, and Administration. The transition to EH&S will align with nationwide best practices and improve the overall function and quality of the IBC program.

Transition Plan and Approach

Beginning in January 2022, the activities and initiatives of the IBC oversight process including scheduling IBC meetings, recording, and retaining meeting minutes, ensuring timely submission of biological use authorization (BUA) protocols, and interacting with local, state, and federal regulators on business related to biosafety, will transition to EH&S.

ORI will continue to provide support services to EH&S to ensure a smooth transition until implementation is complete. Additionally, IBC members will continue to be recruited and appointed by the Vice Chancellor of RED.

As part of the transition, the BUA submission process will be updated. Starting January 17, 2022, BUA protocols (new, renewal, and amendments) will be submitted through the Risk and Safety Solutions' (RSS) Biosafety application. The campus already uses other RSS applications, including Laboratory Hazard Assessment (LHAT) and Chemical inventory.

Currently approved BUAs will be migrated into RSS-Biosafety during the next two months. Principal investigators and faculty will be provided training on how to use RSS-Biosafety through scheduled webinars, virtual Zoom trainings, and guidance documents. Additional one-on-one training or guidance can also be scheduled as needed with EH&S biosafety staff. Guidance documents, dates and times for scheduled trainings will be posted on both the ORI and EH&S websites.

It is important to note that there should not be any delays or interruptions to the BUA submission or approval process. Research will not be impacted.

For any questions or concerns about this transition, please contact the EH&S biosafety office at ehsbiosafety@ucr.edu or ORI at ibc@ucr.edu.

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