

## **Quick Info for Researchers: Biosafety Approval Request**

### ***How do I know if my research needs biosafety review?***

Are you using?            Human blood, body fluids, human tissues or other samples  
                                  Viruses including Lentivirus  
                                  Bacteria or fungi  
                                  Cancer or immortalized cell lines  
                                  Parasites  
                                  Toxins of biological origin  
                                  Plant pathogens  
                                  Aquatic pathogens  
                                  Non-human primate material  
                                  Animal tissue infected with any of the above

McMaster has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal granting councils (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) of which Schedule 13 applies to biological agents.

After application, your project will undergo a risk assessment by the Presidential Biosafety Advisory Committee to determine which biosafety level your material falls into. This will determine the level of control under the applicable federal regulations.

Before funds are released and research begins, your project needs to be in compliance.

*NB. For projects funded from other sources or for student work, the same standards apply since the regulations are federal and applicable to all "persons".*

### ***How do I get biosafety approval?***

The McMaster Biosafety Office can be found at Health Sciences Center, room 1J11. The phone number is 905-525-9140, extension 24956 or 23452 or 22950. The fax number is 905-528-8539. It serves all faculties, at both on and off campus locations.

The web site for the Biosafety Office is [www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/safetyoffice/](http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/safetyoffice/). "Biosafety" has an explanation of the process and relevant forms for application. It includes audit forms and the training schedules and on-line training. Contact our office and we can guide you through the process applicable for your project.

If you are bringing material in from outside of the country, you will need import permits. Allow at least 4 weeks for processing at the federal level.

*THE LAST WORD...* Don't leave biosafety approval until the last minute. Start early, help is just a phone call away. Extension 22950.