

October is National Biosafety Stewardship Month

National Institutes of Health (NIH) has designated this year, October as National Biosafety Stewardship Month for the NIH.

The month-long campaign serves as a reminder to all to be vigilant in ensuring constant attention to biosafety standards and gives researchers the opportunity to take steps to improve protocols and procedures, minimize the risk of potential exposures, and ensure personnel are properly trained in safe laboratory practices. Efforts should be made to highlight the proper ways to report accidents, injuries and other potential problems to supervisors and biosafety professionals.

Here at USF, we strongly encourage researchers to participate by:

- Fulfilling your annual Biosafety Training module - this can be completed online or live – information available at <http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/biosafety/education.asp>
- Reviewing and updating SOPs for use of work involving infectious agents and or rDNA to ensure that all personnel are familiar with them.
- Conducting inventories of their lab storage (i.e. refrigerators/freezers) for infectious agents and of communal spaces within buildings.
- Ensuring all materials, even within communal storage spaces, are well-labeled.
- Updating IBC protocols to reflect all infectious agents and all use and storage locations.
- Reviewing the training of all laboratory members and ensuring correct documentation including General Biosafety and laboratory-specific training.
- Encouraging staff to report any incidents promptly to help provide lessons learned regarding optimal responses to incidents and identification of strategies to minimize risk.



For more information contact Biosafety staff: biosafety@usf.edu

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