



Biosecurity at the University of Western Ontario

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What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity measures are implemented to prevent theft, misuse or intentional release of pathogens or toxins.

Who is Involved in Biosecurity Decisions?

The Biosecurity Subcommittee of the Biosafety Committee has representation from many areas on campus, including campus police, emergency response, and research. The Subcommittee meets regularly to discuss issues involving biological agents. Their role is to ensure that biological agents are used in lawful manner and that the University meets the requirements of the Health Canada Office of Laboratory Security. (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ols-bsl/index.html>)

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What are the Biosecurity Requirements at Western?

Faculty, Staff, and Students doing biological research need to be familiar with the Biosecurity Plan for the University of Western Ontario. (<http://www.uwo.ca/humanresources/biosafety>).

All laboratories need to follow the Biosecurity Requirements Using Biological Agents document, which requires measures such as labeling of samples, protecting samples by locking them away, and accompanying visitors in the laboratory or facility. There are additional requirements for laboratories using toxins, such as a logbook to be kept of sample storage and use, and there may be a limit on the amount of a toxin that can be kept on hand.

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Where do I Get More Information?

For more information, please see www.uwo.ca/humanresources/biosafety or contact the Biosafety Officer at biosecurity@uwo.ca.

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