

BIOSECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Mandate

Biosecurity measures are implemented to prevent the theft or intentional release of pathogens and toxins that would pose a threat to human health, agriculture, or the natural environment. The Biosecurity Sub-committee is a Sub-committee of the University Biosafety Committee (UBSC) and makes recommendations to the UBSC on all matters related to biosecurity. The committee examines the biosecurity risk of agents used and recommends any necessary biosecurity measures to be taken, including the prohibition of agents. The committee will also ensure that The University of Western Ontario complies with all relevant government legislation and university guidelines; including Section 2.6 of the most current Health Canada Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines and guidelines issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or Environment Canada.

Terms of Reference

1. Perform risk assessment for The University of Western Ontario as required by relevant legislation and guidelines, including the current Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines. The committee will advise on biosecurity measures required as a result of the risk assessment.
2. To examine the biohazards used at The University of Western Ontario, determine the risk, and prescribe any biosecurity measures to be taken – including physical security, personnel accountability and agent accountability.
3. To prohibit any biosecurity risk agents deemed too high of a risk to the institution and prescribe measures to eliminate the storage, exportation, importation or use of these agents as determined by the Biohazards Sub-committee.
4. To consult government agencies and other experts as required.
5. To report biosecurity issues to the Biosafety Committee.