
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

RUTGERS

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SECURITY OF SELECT BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS AND TOXINS

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The advent of military action in Iraq has prompted an increase in threats directed against the United States and U.S. interests broad. As you are aware, the Department of Homeland Security recently increased the National Threat Level from “Elevated” (Yellow) to “High” (Orange). Considering this situation, we remind you of our obligation to provide for the security of select biological agents and toxins used in our laboratories.

ALL select agents and toxins must be secured to prevent unauthorized use or removal. This is defined as requiring these materials to be locked or, when in use, to be under the immediate control and constant surveillance by the user.

Security can be achieved in several ways including the following:

1. Lock the laboratories where select agents and toxins are used or stored when staff are absent.
2. Lock storage areas (cabinets, refrigerators, freezers).
3. Maintain surveillance of select agents and toxins in use in the laboratory.
4. Challenge unauthorized entry into the laboratories. Do not allow visitors to enter the lab without questioning the nature and purpose for their visit. Call RUPD for assistance if visitors are uncooperative or unresponsive.
5. Notify REHS immediately in the event of a theft or loss of any select agent material.

Train your lab staff on the nature and purpose of the security requirements and the authorized uses of these materials. Each Principal Investigator is responsible for maintaining appropriate security in their labs.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in these difficult times. Please contact Ms. Amy Ryan (732-445-2550) if you have any questions.