The Biosafety Policy and the Biosafety Program at Ohio University (OU) were established to prevent infection, promote safety in research studies, ensure safe handling of biological agents, provide for safe disposal of infectious laboratory wastes, and maintain compliance with applicable institutional policies and regulatory requirements. This manual provides the details of how Ohio University policy, 44.107 Biohazards will be implemented.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this manual is to describe the operation of the Biosafety Program and to provide guidelines for the safe operation of laboratories and the performance of experiments involving potentially hazardous biological agents. The goals of the Biosafety Program are to:

- protect personnel from exposure to biohazardous agents,
- prevent release of biohazardous agents,
- provide an environment for quality research, and
- comply with applicable government regulations and guidelines.

This manual is also available on the Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS) web site (http://www.ohio.edu/ehs/docs/Biosafety_Manual_2007.pdf).

2.0 SCOPE

A biohazardous agent is defined as any agent of biological origin that has the capacity to produce deleterious effects on humans, animals, plants or the environment. This includes:

a. Infectious organisms and materials: some bacteria, viruses, rickettsia, fungi, parasites, prions, etc.

b. Harmful metabolic products of microorganisms, e.g., bacterial exotoxins and mycotoxins (aflatoxins, sterigmatocystin, luteoskyrin, rugulosin, cyclochlorotine, patulin, etc.)

c. Oncogenic viruses

d. Recombinant DNA molecules

e. Infectious materials of animal or plant origin (such as cell cultures or tissues)

f. Invertebrate vectors of human diseases
g. Any infectious agents or toxins regulated by the "Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act", commonly called the Agent Transfer Law, or designated by CDC or USDA as a “Select Agent”. See Appendix B.

h. Human blood, and other potentially infectious material (OPIM) as defined in the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard:

1. Human Blood

2. Other Potentially Infectious Material –
   “(1) The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids; (2) Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); and (3) HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.”

3. Human Cell Lines