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<b>Administrative Responsibility:</b>	Associate Vice-President, Scholarship and Community Engagement	<b>Procedure:</b> <a href="#">31.04.001</a> <a href="#">31.04.002</a>

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OVERVIEW:

For the purpose of this policy “biohazardous agents” means:

- a. All agents (human and terrestrial animal) requiring containment level 2 or higher under the Public Health Agency of Canada’s (PHAC) Canadian Biosafety Standards and Handbook; and
- b. All aquatic animal agents requiring Aquatic Containment Level 2 (AQC2) or higher under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Some research or teaching endeavours work with potentially hazardous materials. For biological hazards, the potential for harm extends beyond oneself and one’s colleagues to the local and regional communities.

In Canada, the federal government has developed the *Human Pathogens and Toxins Act* and associated regulations, policies and procedures in order to fulfill its mission to safeguard the health of all Canadians.

PURPOSE:

To protect employees, students, the community and the environment from the risks which may arise in the handling of biohazardous agents, by ensuring that the elements of the biosafety program are implemented prior to work being conducted with biohazardous agents.

To integrate recognition, evaluation and control of biological hazards on campus and ensure compliance with applicable federal and provincial government legislation and guidelines.

SCOPE:

This policy addresses Biosafety compliance in Vancouver Island University’s instructional and research laboratories at all University locations and applies to all laboratory personnel and research students (undergraduate and graduate). This policy applies to all teaching and research courses and projects using Risk Group level 2 (RG2) and higher biohazards as defined in the

*Human Pathogens and Toxins Act* and associated regulations (2015). At VIU, working with biohazardous agents higher than RG2 is not allowed.

**STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of Vancouver Island University (VIU) to manage the risk associated with biological hazards in order to provide faculty, students and researchers access to pathogens requiring up to Containment Level 2 (CL2) while ensuring that the University and surrounding communities are protected.

VIU's Biosafety Program consists of this policy and associated guidelines, procedures, manual, and training (information delivery). The program will be overseen by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which reports to the Associate Vice-President, Scholarship and Community Engagement (AVPSCE). All faculty, researchers and students who work independently (unsupervised) with biological hazards will act in accordance with the program.

The *Human Pathogens and Toxins Act* and associated regulations form the basis of the University's biosafety program.

**Published Procedures to this Policy**

- VIU Biosafety Procedures
  - 31.04.001 Biosafety Management
  - 31.04.002 Biosafety Program
    - Institutional Biosafety Committee Terms of Reference
- VIU Biosafety Procedures Manual
- VIU Biosafety Approvals Application Form
- VIU Incident Report Form

**Related Legislation:**

- Human Pathogens and Toxins Act and Regulations
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act
- Workers' Compensation Act, BC
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, BC
- Health of Animals Act

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