

**University of Idaho
Institutional Biosafety Committee**

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m. PT

Location: IRIC 321 or Zoom from a computer: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/87984829680> Passcode: 896084 or phone: (646) 876-9923 Meeting ID: 879 8482 9680.

Voting: Nathan Schiele (Chair), Amy Skibiel, Penny Borden, Josie Boyer, and Russell McClanahan

Attendance: Non-voting: Arch Harner (Non-voting), and Samir Shahat (Non-voting)

Administrative: Kiah Stewart

Quorum was met with 5 of 9 members present

Meeting called to order at 11:02 a.m.

I. Old Business

A. Review of minutes from the previous meetings.

1. Discussion
2. Motion to approve.
 1. Unanimously approved, no discussion.

B. Review protocol activity since the previous meeting.

II. New Business

A. New Protocols

1. IBC-25-013 (Kobziar) – *BIOPFIRE: Biological Agents in Permafrost Fire Emissions — Characterizing Microbial Exposure Risks in Smoke-Affected Operational Environments*
 - a. Proposed at BSL-2
 - b. Discussion
 1. 5.3 List the suspected species in microbial assessment. Describe what samples are used (i.e. soot, pure culture, etc.), how samples are obtained, and what precautions are in place to prevent exposure during homogenization.
 2. 5.3.B.1. Describe the PPE for microbial work and include the use of lab coats. Clarify why leather gloves will be worn. All personnel using n95 masks must be enrolled in the University's Respiratory Protection Program through Environmental Health and Safety.
 3. 5.4 Move all details not related to transportation to section 5.3.
 4. 5.6 Select Yes and answer additional questions.
 5. 7.1 Verify if permits are needed.
 6. 6.1 IFIRE location does not have a biosafety level. Answer Rec DNA question in the table.
 7. 6.1 Remove CNR 217 and add CNR 216/218, which are BSL2.
 8. 8.1 Spell out "unk miscel" for clarity. Delete one fungi entry. Add control organisms if applicable.
 9. 5.3.C. Include a brief description of the Standard Microbiological Practices described in section 3.1 of the BSL-2 Manual.
 10. Comment: Liquid waste can be inactivated by bleach to minimize exposure risk during transportation to the autoclave.
 - c. Motion for modifications required to secure approval pending correction to items 1-10 above.
 1. Unanimously approved.
2. IBC-26-018 (Peters) – *Food Microbiology Laboratory Teaching Course (FS 4170)*
 - a. Proposed at BSL-2
 - b. Discussion

1. 5.3.B.1. Safety glasses and gloves should be used at all times.
2. 8.1 Clarify what is being used in the lab and what is in storage.
3. 5.3 Clarify who is manipulating pathogenic strains and provide procedure details for a risk assessment. Define VP and API strip reading and include what these procedures entail. Specify that pathogenic *Listeria* is not being plated for the PALCAM screening.
4. 5.3.A. Explain what poses a percutaneous risk.
5. 6.1 Add AgBiotech 222.
6. 8.1 Verify accurate biosafety levels for all organisms.
7. 5.3 Clarify if a blade homogenizer is used and how creation of aerosols are mitigated.
- c. Motion for modifications required to secure approval pending correction to items 1-7 above for subcommittee review.
 1. Unanimously approved.

B. Three Year Renewal of Previously Approved Protocols

1. IBC-26-016 (Coats) - *Molecular analysis of wastewater biomass, and presence/absence testing of SARS-CoV2, Flu, and RSV in wastewater collected from municipal wastewater treatment facilities*
 - a. Proposed at BSL-2; Renewal: IBC-23-014 Expires: 07/05/2026
 - b. Discussion
 1. 5.2 There is a statement that the SARS-CoV2 research ended in 2024. Is this protocol to cover samples in storage?
 2. 5.3 State where samples are being collected, if it's before or after treatment, and who is collecting samples. Also include information on dairy manure and how it is transported.
 3. 5.3 Include more details about bioreactors and engineering controls to minimize aerosols. Describe the procedure of viral particle isolation and sample handling. Are bacteria removed by sterile filtration or centrifugation? How are the large volumes centrifuged, and virus particles safely extracted by centrifugation in the BSC? Or are rotors transferred to the BSC prior to opening? Remove the statement "We do not process wastewater samples in a manner that could generate aerosols."
 4. 9.1 Select OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens.
 5. 7.1 Select Human Subjects Research and answer additional questions.
 6. 5.5.C. Glass disposal box is not appropriate for sharps disposal. Update to using a EHS supplied non biohazardous sharps container. Clarify how pipette tips are not in contact with biohazardous agents. And if are in contact with biohazards they are treated as solid biohazardous waste.
 7. 6.1 Include BEL 220 with BEL 230.
 8. 6.2 List McClure autoclave location.
 9. 5.3 Describe the CDC approved internal control listed in 8.1.
 - c. Motion for modifications required to secure approval pending correction to items 1-9 above for subcommittee review.
 1. Unanimously approved.
2. IBC-26-021 (Kuhl) - *Plant Molecular Genetics*
 - a. Proposed at BSL-1; Renewal: IBC-23-013 Expires: 06/21/2026
 - b. Discussion
 1. 5.3.B.1. Include safety glasses, mentioned in 5.3.C.
 2. 9.3.C. Summarize information from SOW.
 3. 11.1 Attach the permit or email to ibc@uidaho.edu.
 4. 10.5 Select Yes.
 5. 12.1 Select NIH (Must be checked for all recombinant DNA activities).
 6. 5.2 Describe the project in layman's terms.
 7. 5.3.A. Select Mucous membrane.
 8. 6.3 Select Sixth Street Greenhouse.
 9. 8.1 List *N. benthamiana* in the table. Complete the biosafety level for the last two entries.

- c. Motion for modifications required to secure approval pending correction to items 1-9 above.
 - 1. Unanimously approved.

III. Other Business

A. Incident Report: Chen Laboratory

- 1. There was a potential needlestick. All steps have been taken to mitigate risks, and the laboratory will increase vigilance and possibly double-glove for this procedure in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.