

# What is Biosecurity?



Biosecurity refers to practices and measures designed to help prevent the theft and/or release of biohazards so that they cannot be intentionally misused.

## What is a biohazard?

A biohazard, or hazardous biological material, can cause disease in humans, animals (including insects), and/or plants. Biohazards should always be handled with special care to avoid exposure and/or release.

The international biohazard symbol identifies biohazardous areas and/or materials



## Biohazards include:



**Bacteria**



**Fungi**



**Viruses**



**Prions and Toxins**



## Why is biosecurity important?

Biohazards are important tools in many scientific fields, like medicine and research. When biosecurity measures are not in place, biohazards could be used to hurt people, animals, and/or the environment.

## Biosecurity and you!

You can help improve biosecurity by:



**1** Keeping biohazards secure when not in use



**2** Keeping track of biohazards at all times



**3** Knowing who is responsible for biohazards



**4** Knowing what to do in an emergency



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