

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Research Materials Policies & Guidelines (Biosafety guidance)

Introduction

In light of the evolving coronavirus pandemic impacting public health worldwide, members of the UCR research community should contact EH&S Biosafety and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) for any projects involving SARS-CoV-2 and any virus-related materials (i.e., inactivated materials, nucleic acids, proteins, etc.).

Planning for Work with SARS-CoV-2 - Associated Materials

Additional information emerges each day about COVID-19. Accordingly, there will be ongoing challenges for determining appropriate biosafety measures for research activities with biological materials associated with the virus.

A number of interim guidance documents have been developed by various entities regarding general biocontainment requirements for work with SARS-CoV-2-related material. However, they all emphasize the need to complete a thorough risk assessment for any research activity involving SARS-CoV-2 materials. The Biosafety Officer and Institutional Biosafety Committee will assist with conducting risk assessments in partnership with those planning this work.

At this time, clinical samples potentially infected with SARS-CoV-2 should be handled in a certified biological safety cabinet in a BSL-2 facility. Researchers are advised to follow BSL-3 practices and procedures for additional protection. Any work involving isolation, infection or propagation of SARS-CoV-2 in cells/tissues or any work involving infection of animals, **MUST** be conducted in a BSL-3 laboratory.

Please Note: UCR investigators should not receive or accept COVID-19 samples or related materials before a risk assessment is completed and approved by UCR's Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). See [SARS-CoV-2 Research Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines](#) for additional guidance.

Policies and Procedures

Any UCR researcher who is planning to work with any biological specimens from COVID-19 patients (or any other materials associated with the SARS-CoV-2 virus) **must** submit a Biological Use Authorization (BUA) application to the IBC. The IBC must review and approve the risk assessment and biocontainment plan for the proposed activities **before** shipment/transfer of these materials is initiated. (Note: This is not a new requirement but a reminder of the existing requirements for using any potentially infectious materials that have not been previously documented with and approved by the IBC.)

The IBC submissions must be made electronically via the [BUA submission portal](#).