

Oklahoma State University Institutional Biosafety Committee		
Minors and work with biohazardous materials	Policy #	GA125
	Effective Date	1/25/12
	Revision Date	6/02/23
	Revision #	2
	IBC Approval Date:	9/28/23

1. POLICY

In addition to adhering to the University policy for work/activities involving minors, Principal Investigators must also request permission from the IBC to allow minors, who are not affiliated with OSU, to work with biohazardous materials, as defined in the OSU Institutional Biosafety Policy 4-0301, prior to the work beginning. This request must be in writing using an IBC protocol form (Teaching Lab Registration Form, rDNA Protocol Registration Form, or Biological Agent Registration Form) or the Protocol Modification Form. The PI should provide information regarding training and supervision of these minors, which agents the minors will be working with, the procedures that will be used, and the location of the work.

The IBC strongly encourages Principal Investigators to use non-pathogenic organisms whenever possible. The IBC also strongly encourages utilizing a teaching laboratory to reduce the amount of risk (biological as well as other risks such as chemical or radiological risks) present in a research laboratory. The following are specific guidelines based on containment level:

- Biosafety Level (BSL)
 - Minors are prohibited from entering or working in the following:
 - Any laboratory or research space designated BSL-3
 - Any laboratory or research space designated BSL-2 with BSL-3 practices, BSL-2-enhanced, or BSL-2+
 - Any laboratory or research space where select agents are used or stored
- Animal Biosafety Level (ABSL)
 - Minors are prohibited from entering or working in the following:
 - Any animal housing or procedure room designated ABSL-3
 - Any animal housing or procedure room designated ABSL-2 with ABSL-3 practices, ABSL-2-enhanced, or ABSL-2+
 - Any animal housing or procedure room where select agents are used or stored

The IBC may also determine that any project is not appropriate for minors to work on based upon risk assessment.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all research and teaching laboratories and facilities falling within the purview of Oklahoma State University IBC (Stillwater).

Minors are defined as individuals who are under the age of 18. However, this policy does not apply to OSU students and employees who are under the age of 18.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

Principal Investigators and Laboratory/Facility Managers/Directors have a responsibility to adhere to this policy and to continually confirm that all laboratory personnel comply with this policy.

4. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, & OSU POLICIES

- Policy #1-0135, Minors Participating in OSU-Related Activities and Programs