



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
of MARYLAND

# Unofficial USM Biosafety Symposium



Biosafety teams from University of Maryland Baltimore, University of Maryland College Park, and University of Maryland Baltimore County gathered at UMB to discuss the hot topics of the day and how our programs can further collaborate.



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

# BIOSECURITY WEBINAR

Biological threats are real—and protecting against them requires strong collaboration between science and security. Dr. Cropp will explore how law enforcement and research institutions can work together to safeguard public health, discussing roles, responsibilities, and strategies to build trust and improve communication across sectors.

**WITH :**  
**DR. SUSAN CROPP, PHD**  
SPEAKER



October 15, 2025  
12:00 pm - 1:30pm



**Sponsored by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety**  
Visit [umaryland.edu/EHS](http://umaryland.edu/EHS) or call (410) 706-7055  
for more info.

# **SPOOKY SEASON** *Safe Science*

**CELEBRATE BIOSAFETY MONTH WITH EHS!**

**STOP BY TO PLAY GAMES, EAT TREATS,  
AND MEET OUR BIOSAFETY TEAM!**

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**10/8 HSF1 Lobby 11am-1pm**

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**10/15 FBI Biosecurity Webinar 12pm-1:30pm**

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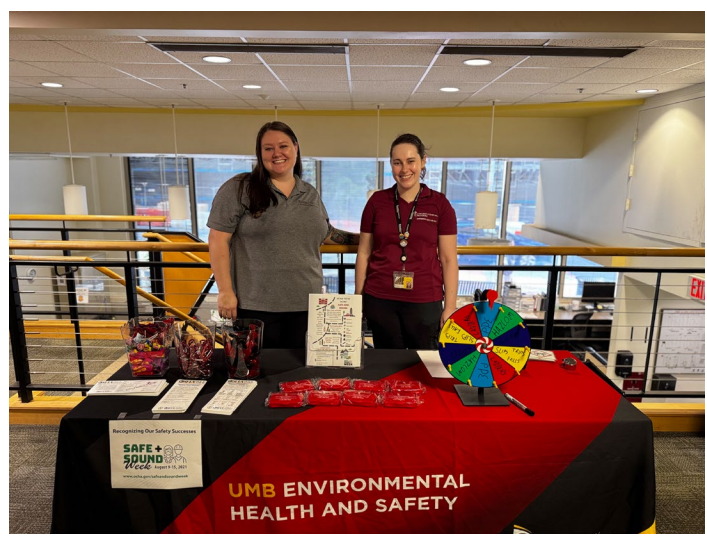
**10/22 BRB Lobby 11am-1pm**

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**10/29 HSF3 Atrium 11am-1pm**

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# Examples of 2025 tabling events in building lobbies



# Individually wrapped cookies to be labelled



# Halloween Valentines to be put on cookie giveaways

**DON'T GHOST YOUR GLOVES**



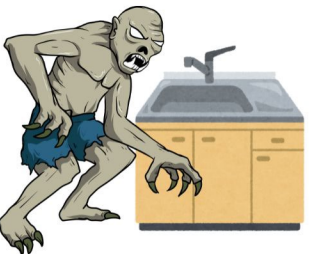
**SAFETY FIRST!**

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*Don't be a Silly  
ghoul*

**Wash your hands after  
lab work!**



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**DON'T BE A BONEHEAD**



**REMEMBER TO LABEL!**

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**STAY SPOOKY, NOT CONTAMINATED**



**USE YOUR BIOSAFETY CABINET!**

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**TRICK OR TREAT**




**BIOSAFETY CAN'T BE  
BEAT**

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**Fangs for disposing  
of sharps the right  
way!**



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Elm Newsletter Marketing: Submittal once a week starting 9/29

9/29 Happy Biosafety Month

## **Biosafety & Biosecurity Month at UMB**

Each October, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) joins institutions worldwide in celebrating Biosafety & Biosecurity Month, an initiative led by ABSA International. This annual observance promotes awareness of safe laboratory practices and highlights the vital role biosafety and biosecurity play in protecting people, research, and the environment.

Biosafety ensures that laboratory staff, students, and the community remain safe when working with biological materials, while biosecurity focuses on safeguarding resources to prevent misuse. Together, these principles foster a culture of responsibility that supports UMB's mission of advancing discovery and improving human health.

This October, as spooky season approaches, remember that safe science doesn't have to be scary. Look out for special events, weekly biosafety tips, and resources designed to strengthen safe practices across our campus. Visit the UMB EHS [website](#) to learn more and join us in celebrating a culture of safety this season.

10/6 Biosafety Tip #1

**Don't let an expired BSC cast a shadow on your lab—check your certification sticker today!**

Biosafety cabinets (BSCs) are essential tools for conducting research safely at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). These enclosed, ventilated workspaces protect laboratory personnel, research materials, and the surrounding environment when working with infectious agents or hazardous biological materials. To ensure this protection, regular certification of BSCs is required.

Certification verifies that the cabinet is operating correctly, with proper airflow and containment. At UMB, all BSCs must be professionally certified when they are installed, relocated, or repaired, and then recertified at least annually. This process follows national standards to confirm that each cabinet provides the intended level of protection.

Reminder for lab staff: don't let an expired sticker give you a scare—always check your BSC's certification date to be sure it's current.

And remember, October is Biosafety & Biosecurity Month. Keep an eye out for our spooky-season events and weekly biosafety tips, and visit the UMB EHS website for more information.

10/13 Biosecurity tip

**Don't let unsecured samples turn into a real horror story.**

Biosecurity is an essential part of maintaining a safe and responsible research environment at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). While biosafety focuses on protecting people and the environment from exposure to hazardous biological materials, biosecurity emphasizes safeguarding those materials from loss, theft, or misuse. Together, these practices ensure that science can advance without unnecessary risks.

At UMB, strong biosecurity measures include securing access to laboratories, maintaining accurate inventory records, and following procedures for transporting and storing biological materials. These safeguards protect not only our researchers, but also the broader community and the integrity of scientific discovery.

Reminder for lab staff: don't let lapses in security give you a fright—always lock doors, secure materials, and report concerns promptly.

This October, as part of Biosafety & Biosecurity Month, keep an eye out for our spooky-season events and weekly biosafety tips, and don't forget to sign up for our upcoming FBI webinar on biosecurity. Visit the UMB EHS website for details.

## 10/20 Biosafety Tip #2

### No PPE? That's the real nightmare!

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is very important in maintaining a safe research environment at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). Proper PPE use helps protect laboratory personnel from exposure to infectious agents, hazardous materials, and accidental spills while also supporting the integrity of ongoing research.

In biosafety settings, common PPE includes lab coats, gloves, and protective eyewear. Depending on the risk level and type of work, additional PPE such as face shields, respiratory protection, or double gloves may be required. Selecting, using, and maintaining the right PPE is essential to preventing laboratory-acquired infections and ensuring safe science at UMB.

Reminder for lab staff: don't let missing or damaged PPE become a fright—always check your gear before starting work and replace items as needed.

This October, as part of Biosafety & Biosecurity Month, keep an eye out for our spooky-season events and weekly biosafety tips. Visit the UMB EHS website for details.

### 10/27 Biosafety Tip #3

## Don't let unreviewed research come back to haunt you—check with the IBC

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) plays a key role in ensuring safe and responsible research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). The IBC reviews and approves projects involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, infectious agents, and other biological materials that may pose risks to people, animals, or the environment. This oversight helps ensure that research complies with federal guidelines while protecting the UMB community and supporting the university's mission of advancing discovery.

At UMB, the IBC partners with researchers and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to evaluate protocols, assess risks, and recommend safeguards that promote safe science. Investigators are required to submit protocols for review before beginning work, and ongoing oversight helps maintain compliance throughout the life of the project.

Reminder for lab staff: don't let regulatory requirements sneak up on you—make sure your research is properly reviewed by the IBC.

This October, watch for our spooky-season events and weekly biosafety tips, and visit the UMB EHS website for details.