

# Do I need an IBC Protocol?

## A guidance chart for Institutional Biosafety Committee Protocols

Material	Manipulations	IBC Review Needed?	
		No	Yes
Human blood, bodily fluids, or tissue samples	Collection, preparation for storage, and shipment	✓	
	Collection, processing, and/or manipulation for research		✓**
Human cell lines	Collection, processing, and/or manipulation for research		✓**
Recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids – including viral vectors	See NIH Guidelines - <a href="https://osp.od.nih.gov/policies/biosafety-and-biosecurity-policy#tab2/">https://osp.od.nih.gov/policies/biosafety-and-biosecurity-policy#tab2/</a>		✓
Pure cultures of non-infectious microorganisms (Risk Group I*) or materials containing RG I microbes	Possession, collection, processing, and manipulation for research when volumes of pure culture do not exceed 10L and manipulations minimize aerosolization potential.	✓	
Pure cultures of infectious microorganisms (≥ RG II) or materials containing infectious substances	Possession, collection, processing, and/or manipulation for research		✓
Samples of soil, water, animals, plants, or insects <i>known to be free</i> of pathogens	<i>Collection, processing, and/or manipulation for research</i>	✓	
Samples of soil, water, animals, plants, or insects <i>suspected or known to contain</i> pathogens	Collection, processing, and/or manipulation for research or shipment		✓

\*Risk Group I organisms are not known to cause disease in healthy human adults. Risk Group II organisms are known to cause limited or treatable disease in healthy human adults. Risk Group III organisms are known to cause serious or lethal human disease with limited treatments available. Risk Group IV organisms are known to cause serious or lethal human disease and have no available treatments.<sup>1</sup> UTHealth does not perform work with RGIV organisms.

<sup>1</sup>A partial list RGI & II organisms is available here and here. These resources also include all known RG III & IV organisms.

\*\* May meet Conditionally Exempt Criteria.