

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Institutional Biosafety Committee**

## Influenza Virus FAQ

**1. Do I need special permission to work with the influenza virus?**

Yes, prior to using strains of the influenza virus, you must have Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) approval. If you will be using animals in your study, you will also need approval from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). For more information, please visit [www.compliance.iastate.edu](http://www.compliance.iastate.edu).

**2. Does the use of various influenza virus strains require certain biosafety levels?**

The use of the H2N2, 1918 H1N1, or high pathogenicity H5N1 requires that work be conducted under BSL-3 or ABSL-3 conditions. The 1918 H1N1 and high pathogenicity H5N1 strains are also considered Select Agents and require further oversight. The use of influenza strains other than those listed above must take place under BSL-2 or ABSL-2 conditions.

**3. What if I intend to use a strain of the influenza virus that is considered a Select Agent?**

The 1918 H1N1 and high pathogenicity H5N1 strains of the influenza virus are considered Select Agents, and personnel and facilities must be registered before the work begins. Contact ISU's [Department of Environmental Health and Safety](#) to register and for further information and instruction regarding the use of Select Agents.

**4. How do I know if my current laboratory and practices meet the requirements for working with the influenza virus?**

Please refer to ISU's [Biosafety Manual](#) and contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety for verification and questions.