

Oklahoma State University Institutional Biosafety Committee		
Food and Drink in the Laboratory	Policy #	GA104
	Effective Date	6/28/2024
	Revision Date	
	Revision #	
	IBC Approval Date:	6/27/2024

1. POLICY

Eating, drinking, smoking, handling contact lenses, applying cosmetics, and storing food for human consumption is not permitted within laboratory areas. Food must be stored outside the laboratory in cabinets or refrigerators designated and used solely for this purpose.

These restrictions apply to the entire laboratory, including but not limited to areas within the laboratory where biohazardous materials are used/stored.

Before leaving a laboratory, you must remove all PPE properly, follow all decontamination procedures, and wash hands thoroughly prior to eating/drinking.

These activities may be permitted in an area separated from the laboratory space by floor-to-ceiling walls and/or a closed door at the discretion of the IBC for BSL-1 and BSL-2 facilities. For example:

- Private Office
- Table/Cart located in a hallway outside of the laboratory.

Food or drink may be moved through a laboratory to a permitted area only if the food or drink is fully wrapped or in a covered container; a secondary container is recommended.

Under no circumstances are the activities above permitted in BSL-3 facilities.

These restrictions help prevent the accidental ingestion of biohazardous materials by laboratory personnel which could lead to serious illness, injury, or death.

2. SCOPE

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

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

- Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) 6th Edition
- OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030)
- Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in Human and Animal Medical Diagnostic Laboratories
- OSU Biosafety Manual