

UT Health Science Center: RS105 - Procedure for New Laboratories	
Version 3	Publication Date: 05/29/2026



UTHSC Research Laboratory Move-In Checklist

Prior to initiating work on research protocols this checklist must be completed to ensure that new research laboratories are set up properly, safety training has been completed, and research personnel have completed the orientation necessary to safely handle hazardous materials. Upon completion this checklist must be emailed to labsafety@uthsc.edu.

Building: _____ Room #(s) _____

Principal Investigator: _____ Department: _____

Lab Safety Manager for Lab: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Item	Completed			Date Completed
Research				
1. All research projects utilizing recombinant or synthetic DNA, infectious agents, biologically derived infectious materials or biologically active agents (i.e. toxins, allergens, venoms) are registered with the UTHSC Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. All human materials have been registered with the UTHSC Institutional Review Board . (Cell lines from exempt vendors may be excluded. Contact the IRB for a list of exempt vendors.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. All animal protocols are registered with UTHSC Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. All research projects involving the use of radioactive materials or ionizing radiation (e.g. x-rays, gamma irradiator, etc.) have been registered with the UTHSC Radiation Safety Committee .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
5. The Responsible Official (RO) for the institution must be notified of all quantities (including exempt quantities) of Select Agent Toxins. (i.e. Tetrodotoxins, Botulinum neurotoxins) as well as the quantity of each. Contact Tim Barton by emailing tbarton4@uthsc.edu .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
6. Freezers containing research specimens must be included on the university Critical Freezer Inventory in accordance with RS203 – Critical Freezer Inventory and Audit . Instructions for adding freezer to the inventory are accessible on the Critical Freezer Management and Guidelines website .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Training				
1. New hires have attended HR orientation for your school/department/division/faculty.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. All staff members, including PI, have completed <u>Laboratory and Chemical Hygiene training</u> http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/training.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
3. All staff members, including PI, working with rDNA or materials to be handled at BSL2 have completed <u>Principles of Biosafety (BSL2) training</u> . http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/training.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. All staff members, including PI, working with human materials including cell lines have completed <u>Bloodborne Pathogen training</u> . http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/training.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
5. All staff members, including PI, working with radioactive materials, x-rays or lasers, have completed <u>Radiation Safety Training</u> . http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/training.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
6. All staff members responsible for shipping infectious substances or dry ice have completed <u>IATA Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Materials Shipping</u> . http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/training.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
7. All Principal Investigators and staff members that handle DEA controlled substances must complete <u>Handling Controlled Substances in Research</u> . http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/training.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
8. Research personnel accessing LACU facilities have completed the <u>Research Personnel Training Requirements</u> and completed the training mandated by the IACUC.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

Manuals and Plans (Must be located and reviewed by all personnel)

1. Personnel must be familiar with emergency response procedures applicable to their work area. UTHSC Emergency Response Plan is available at https://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/documents/emergency-response-plan.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Handling of chemicals must take place in accordance with the requirements of the UTHSC Chemical Hygiene Plan. This plan is available at https://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/documents/2chemhygplan.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Handling of human blood or other potentially infectious human materials must take place in accordance with the UTHSC Exposure Control Plan. This plan is available at https://policy.tennessee.edu/procedure/gs5200-exposure-control-plan-2022/	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
4. Handling of biohazardous materials must take place in accordance with UTHSC Biosafety Manual. This plan is available at: https://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/documents/campus-safety-biosafety-manual.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
5. UTHSC Hazardous Material Spill Contingency Plan is available at: https://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/documents/hazardous-material-spill-contingency-plan.pdf	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

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Occupational Health				
1. Complete the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens or Hepatitis B vaccine (acceptance/declination) form at Occupational Health. Keep records of vaccination offer with Exposure Control Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. All staff members entering LACU facilities must complete Initial Health Questionnaire and submit it to Occupational Health for review.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. All staff members required to wear a respirator (N95, half-face, full-face or PAPR) must complete the Medical Evaluation Questionnaire for Respirator Users and submit it to Occupational Health for review and approval prior to wearing a respirator.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. Complete the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens or Hepatitis B vaccine (acceptance/declination) form at Occupational Health.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Safety Equipment				
1. The laboratory maintains sufficient and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to support safe work practices, including gloves, safety glasses and/or goggles, lab coats or disposable gowns, UV-protective face shields, and N95 respirators, as applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
2. Personnel required to wear a tight-fitting respirator (e.g. N95) must be fit tested by the Office of Research Safety Affairs. Email labsafety@uthsc.edu to schedule fit testing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
3. All PPE (e.g. lab coat and gloves) must be removed before entering non-research areas (i.e. offices, bathrooms)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
4. The laboratory PPE policy, including procedures for addressing non-compliance, has been completed and reviewed with staff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
5. Each eyewash station or drench hose in each lab must be inspected, flushed, and documented weekly. Weekly documentation form is located at http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/safety-information.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
6. All staff members have received orientation on the locations of the nearest emergency eyewash station, safety shower, fire extinguisher, fire alarm pull station, and the designated area of refuge for assembly in the event of a fire alarm or other building emergency.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
7. The safety shower has been inspected and documented for its annual inspection by facilities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
8. Centrifuges used to handle large volumes or high concentrations of potentially infectious material are equipped with safety cups or sealed rotors with O-rings to contain accidental spills or the potential release of infectious aerosols.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
9. The fume hood has been inspected within the last 12 months.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
10. All Biosafety Cabinets (BSC) have been certified within the last 12 months.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
11. An appropriate disinfectant (e.g., bleach or a hydrogen peroxide-based solution) is available for cleaning work surfaces and the grill inside the BSC. (Per UTHSC IBC policy, alcohol is not permitted as a surface disinfectant in IBC-approved protocols.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

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Chemicals				
1. A chemical inventory for hazardous chemicals in the lab has been created and emailed to labsafety@uthsc.edu or entered into EHS Assistant. (Up-to-date chemical inventory must be maintained.) http://www.uthsc.edu/research/safety/safety-information.php	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all hazardous chemicals handled in the lab are available on a community computer or in a binder that is accessible to staff members.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. All containers (including water) must be labeled to identify their contents. Containers of hazardous chemical must be labeled to identify both the contents and the hazards.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. All chemical containers must be closed when not actively in use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
5. Chemical containers must be properly segregated to separate incompatible materials (i.e. acids from bases, oxidizers from flammables, inorganic acids from organic acids, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
6. Flammable liquid materials stored outside of a flammable liquid storage cabinet must be limited to materials that are "in use."	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
7. No more than 10 gallons of flammable liquid chemicals are permitted from being stored outside an NFPA approved cabinet.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
8. Flammable materials can ONLY be stored in an NFPA rated refrigerator or freezer.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
9. Organic peroxide-forming chemicals (e.g. diethyl ether, THF, 1,4-dioxane, etc.) must be labeled with a received and opened date. Peroxide test strips must be available to periodically test the peroxide concentration in containers of these compounds. Containers with >30ppm of organic peroxides must immediately be discarded as hazardous waste.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
10. Chemical containers stored on the floor must be stored in secondary containment.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
11. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) created for the handling of highly hazardous materials and procedures. These must be reviewed and followed by laboratory staff performing these procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Controlled Substances				
1. Must have a current DEA Registration and TN Board of Pharmacy license to purchase and handle all controlled substances.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. All controlled substances must be properly secured and stored when not actively being used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

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3. Access to controlled substances is limited to only Authorized Users .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. All Authorized Users must be properly trained in handling, documentation , and how to report lost, stolen or missing controlled substances.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
5. An inventory of all controlled substances must be kept as well as a usage form for each container. A documented audit of this inventory must be performed at least every 2 years.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
6. All expired controlled substances must be properly disposed of by contacting labsafety@uthsc.edu . An accompanying DEA Form 41 must be completed for this disposal and the documentation retained with the DEA registrant's records.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Select Agent Toxins				
1. All Select Agent Toxins must be properly secured when not in active use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. Labs that store Select Agent Toxins must keep the lab door locked when nobody is in the lab.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. An inventory and usage log must be kept for each container of material.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. All unwanted Select Agent Toxins must be deactivated prior to disposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
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Compressed Gases				
1. Each cylinder must be stored upright and secured to the wall or bench counter with chain or a strap.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. Cylinder caps must be placed and secured onto the cylinder when the regulator is not attached.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Chemical Waste				
1. All hazardous chemical waste must be stored in containers that are in good condition and compatible with the materials being stored.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. All chemical waste containers must be kept closed at all times except when actively adding waste.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. All chemical waste containers must be clearly labeled as " Hazardous Waste ," with the contents, estimated percentages, and associated hazards identified .	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Biohazardous Waste Handling and Disposal				
1. You must decontaminate reusable glassware prior to washing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

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2. Liquid biohazardous waste must be chemically disinfected (e.g., 10% bleach solution) for an appropriate time period, disposed of down the drain, and rinsed with sufficient water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. All biohazardous solid waste must be collected in a red or orange bag labeled with the biohazard symbol.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Biohazard bags containing solid waste must be disposed of as Regulated Medical Waste by placement into Stericycle boxes. Contact your Business Manager or Mr. Hoover to identify the nearest Stericycle collection site. Autoclaving of BSL -2 solid waste is not required prior to disposal in Stericycle boxes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. All biohazardous waste containers must be closed when not actively collecting waste. A nonporous lid must be used for easy decontamination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. All sharps containers must be made of leak proof and puncture resistant material and must be covered when not actively adding material to container.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. If you use the autoclave for sterilization of glassware please familiarize each staff member with the proper procedures .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
General Safety				
1. A Laboratory Safety Manager has been designated to carry out ongoing safety and compliance responsibilities, including eyewash station flushing, chemical inventory maintenance, critical freezer inventory updates, enforcement of PPE requirements, and other items outlined in this checklist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. No food or drinks are permitted in the lab. Staff must be informed of designated break areas for eating and drinking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. All staff must wear closed-toed shoes while in the lab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. Long pants or below-the-knee dresses are required. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Each lab should have available a small first-aid kit for minor incidents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. The lab should be free of clutter and organized.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. Aisles in the lab must be unobstructed at least 36" wide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8. Minimize the storage of items above eye level, including chemicals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9. Only non-porous chair is permitted in laboratory spaces; cloth chair is prohibited.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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	Yes	No	
10. Needles and razor blades must be safely stored to prevent accidental punctures and cuts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. If you use P ³² or I ¹²⁵ radioactive isotopes in the lab you must have available a Geiger counter which Radiation Safety will calibrate every 12 months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Work surface covers must be discarded when dirtied/contaminated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Aspiration flasks on the floor must be stored in secondary containment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. An in-line hydrophobic filter must be used when connected to the in-house vacuum line.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Purchase a "Broken Glass" container for all non-biohazardous broken glass. No chemicals, syringes, or biological contaminated materials are permitted in broken glass containers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. A laboratory hazard assessment placard must be completed and posted at the main entrance door to the lab(s). Email labsafety@uthsc.edu if additional placards are needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Equipment used to store or handle biohazardous material must have a biohazard label affixed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Equipment and areas used to store and handle radioactive material, including waste, must have a radioactive label affixed. Lab doors must have a radioactive door placard affixed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. The Tennessee Regulation for Radiation Notice signage " Notice to Employees " and " Pregnant Workers " sheet must be posted in labs storing and handling radioactive materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. All refrigerators, freezers, microwaves located in each lab must have a " NO Food " label affixed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. All ice machines must be labeled " Ice Not for Human Consumption ".	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Electrical panels or breaker panels must not be obstructed. At least 36 inches of unobstructed space must be provided in front of the panel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Missing or damaged electrical outlet face plates located in the lab must be identified and reported to Facilities by contacting your Business Manager or completing a work order request using Dash.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Response			
1. The Emergency Contact Numbers sheet posted in the lab.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
2. Post Biological spill procedures and review them with staff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
3. Post Chemical spill procedures and review them with staff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
4. Post Radiological spill procedures and review them with staff.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	