



Developing and Implementing Risk Mitigation Plans

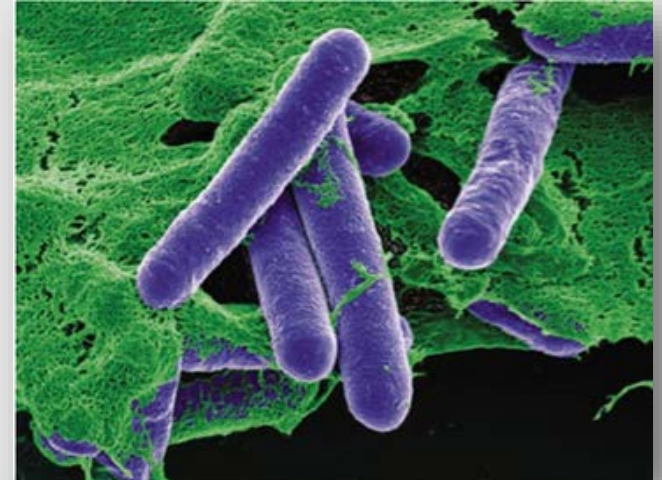
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Questions to Ask and Resources to Utilize



- What is the PI already doing?
- What new risks are posed by the research?
- How can those risks be mitigated?
- Consultants/Collaborators
 - Infectious Disease Physicians
 - Public Health Officials
 - Police Department
 - FBI
 - Cybersecurity
 - Communications
 - Legal
 - Export Control
 - Federal Agencies



Content of Risk Mitigation Plans



- Biosafety
- Biosecurity
- PPE
- Operational precautions
- Personnel requirements
- Occupational health plan
- Evaluation of countermeasures
- Oversight of research*
- Notification of funding agency*
- Communication plan*
- Seek advice from federal agencies as needed*
- Description of training



Responsible Communication



- Consider risks and timeframe
- Describe value to science and public
- Develop talking points and press releases to put the research into context
- Identify spokespersons
- Include additional information in manuscripts



Ensuring Compliance



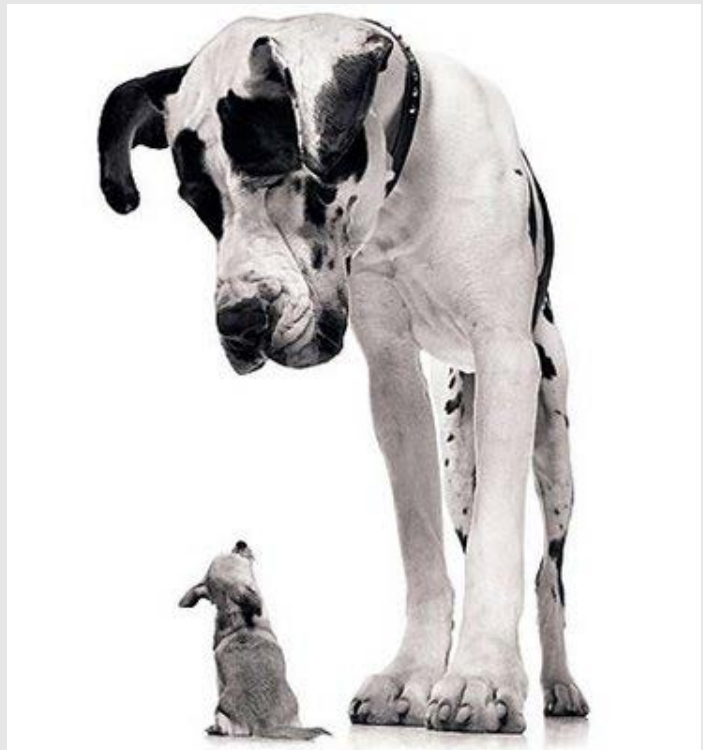
- Most are measures already required and/or being done
- Good communication and partnership with lab
- Training





Lessons Learned

- Think big picture
- Be as transparent as possible
- Combine risk mitigation plans
- Media plans have built-in flexibility
- Process goes smoother if the program officer works directly with the ICDUR



Pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza has led to the culling of hundreds of millions of birds. A human-transmissible form could have much worse consequences.

Adaptations of avian flu virus are a cause for concern

Members of the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity explain its recommendations on the communication of experimental work on H5N1 influenza.