



**NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative Engagement Summary**  
**American Society for Microbiology Microbe Meeting**  
**June 7, 2026**

**Background**

NIH announced its Biosafety Modernization Initiative in Fall 2025 and began an expansive plan for engaging stakeholders. In addition to holding six regional listening sessions, NIH also participated in smaller engagements to gather individual input to help inform a new NIH biosafety policy.

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM), a professional life science organization aimed at promoting and advancing microbial sciences around the world, invited the NIH to speak at the ASM Microbe Meeting about the NIH Biosafety Modernization Initiative, and the role microbiologists can play in helping shape a new biosafety policy.

**Event Summary**

NIH presented an introduction to the Biosafety Modernization Initiative and framed the topics that would be helpful to inform the policy framework. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session where ASM members provided individual perspectives.

ASM members provided individual feedback, including some of the following comments and input:

- The need for coordinated federal, state, and local oversight to decrease burdens.
- The importance of coordinating with NIH's federal partners to close perceived gaps.
- The need to calibrate oversight with potential risk.

NIH thanked individuals for their comments and encouraged ASM members to continue providing feedback through the mechanisms listed on the NIH Office of Science Policy website.