



Maintaining appropriate levels of identification, warning, and security in the storage of biohazardous materials is integral to maintaining best practices in the laboratory.



The universal biohazard warning labels (image above) shall be posted on the outside door of each laboratory and on any equipment used for storage or manipulation of biohazardous material which is potentially infectious to humans.

Materials considered potentially infectious to humans include but are not limited to:

- Human pathogens, Risk Group 2\* and above (viral, bacterial, fungal, parasitic, or prion)
- Animal blood and/or tissues infected with agents also infectious to humans
- Human blood, blood products, or fluids
- Human derived cell lines or tissues
- Viral vectors
- Live vaccines

\* [http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/Guidelines/NIH\\_Guidelines.htm#\\_Toc351276291](http://oba.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/Guidelines/NIH_Guidelines.htm#_Toc351276291)

Examples of proper placement of a label using the universal biohazard symbol include:

- Doors to laboratories that contain or manipulate these materials
- Animal Housing or Procedure rooms where agents infectious to humans are present
- All equipment and materials used to manipulate, or store these materials (ex: centrifuges, freezers)
- Containers used to transport biohazardous materials between locations
- Waste containers for untreated biohazardous waste

Laboratories working with a) animals, plants or insects, or b) agents infectious specific to these organisms should use appropriate signage **not containing the universal biohazard warning symbol.**

Example of warning label without biohazard symbol (for labs with transgenic plant materials):



Listed below are signs available for use in or on the door of your laboratory space, which can provide proper hazard communication and other useful information to employees in the laboratory and surrounding areas.

- [Autoclave – For Sterilization of Biohazardous Materials](#)
- [Autoclave – No Biohazardous Materials](#)
- [Animal Transfer Stations](#)
- [Laboratory Door Sign](#)
- [Emergency Phone Numbers](#)
- [No Gloves Beyond This Point](#)
- [Occupational Injury or Exposure Protocol](#)
- [Waste Disposal for Researchers \(with pictures\)](#)
- [Waste Disposal for Researchers \(flow chart\)](#)
- [Viral Vectors in Use \(Tissue Culture Room Doors\)](#)