



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

Dear GW Community:

As part of the national efforts to combat potential bioterrorism, the USA Patriot Act of 2001 and other statutes and regulations in 2002 have substantially increased the protections and limitations on possession, use or transfer of certain dangerous biological agents and toxins. The affected substances are known as “select agents” and are listed by the Centers for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) or the Department of Agriculture ([www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)).

At GW, these new measures may affect research involving select agents. The University continues to support freedom of investigation and research for its faculty, but if such investigation involves select agents it must be conducted in accordance with law, and in accordance with University policies adopted to ensure compliance with those laws. A task force has been working in recent months to survey University researchers and to monitor and implement these new laws and regulations, and the University has adopted an interim compliance policy on this subject. To review this policy, please visit the web site at [www.gwumc.edu/research/labsafety/selectagent.htm](http://www.gwumc.edu/research/labsafety/selectagent.htm).

The main features of these laws, regulations and policies of which you should be aware are:

1. If you currently possess any quantity of any listed select agent and have not already filled out a survey and registration form, you should immediately report the details of such possession to Jeffrey Good, at 202-994-5059 or [rsojmg@gwumc.edu](mailto:rsojmg@gwumc.edu) or Joe Yohe, at 202-994-6947 or [riskjay@gwu.edu](mailto:riskjay@gwu.edu).
2. If you desire to conduct new research in the future involving a select agent, you should first read GW’s compliance policy and follow the procedures in that policy. Under no circumstances should you purchase, swap, transfer or otherwise acquire such select agents on your own or without complying with GW policy and procedures.

The University will be conducting a more in-depth session to discuss these new developments with interested researchers and others in the near future. If you are interested in attending such sessions, please respond to Jeffrey Good or Joe Yohe.

We appreciate your attention to and cooperation on these important national developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. Williams'.

John F. Williams, MD, EdD  
Vice President for Health Affairs and  
Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald R. Lehman'.

Donald R. Lehman, PhD  
Vice President for Academic Affairs