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NIH Publishes Revisions to the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines)*

NIH has revised the *NIH Guidelines* to specify biosafety practices for research involving gene drive modified organisms (GDMOs) in contained research settings. These revisions include:

- Specifying the minimum containment requirement for research involving GDMOs;
- Articulating considerations for risk assessment and additional responsibilities for Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) and Biosafety Officers

NIH previously published a Request for Information (RFI) in August 2023 seeking [public input](#) on proposed revisions. The proposed revisions were informed by recommendations contained in the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee (NExTRAC) report, *Gene Drives in Biomedical Research*.

The revised version of the *NIH Guidelines* is available at https://osp.od.nih.gov/wp-content/uploads/NIH_Guidelines.htm. To assist IBCs, biosafety professionals, and investigators with implementation of these changes, OSP has developed a [reference document](#) to help ensure the safe and responsible conduct of research involving GDMOs in contained research settings.

If you have questions regarding the updates to the NIH Guidelines and/or questions regarding any impacts the updates may have on your research or instructional activities and active IBC protocols, please contact the IBC Program office (ibc@vt.edu).