

# Strengthening lab biosecurity: a roadmap towards implementing performance-based standards

*CEPI and Global Affairs Canada Biosecurity Panel Discussion  
Global Health Security Conference, Sydney, Australia  
Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024; 13:00–14:00 AEST*

## Summary

As the world recovers from COVID-19 and focuses on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response frameworks to ensure the world is better prepared, a review of international biosafety and biosecurity frameworks and standards is key to prevention. COVID-19 significantly increased international collaboration in R&D in emerging infectious disease and sharing of pathogens. Yet, competencies for high containment laboratories vary across countries and settings. There is a need to develop common international standards for biosafety competence for high containment facilities to minimise risk of unintentional or unauthorised release and catalyse broader scientific partnership and collaboration.

This side event, co-hosted by CEPI (The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) and Global Affairs Canada, will explore potential biosafety and biosecurity risks in a post COVID-19 pandemic world, highlight the current global landscape for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, and identify opportunities to accelerate development and implementation of performance-based standards for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.

## Objectives

- Highlight the need to accelerate implementation of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity standards to strengthen health security and catalyse global scientific partnerships.
- Better understand the global landscape for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity standards.
- Highlight national and global opportunities and challenges with development and implementation of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity standards, including in the Global South.
- Build momentum for accelerating implementation of ISO 35001 and other performance-based standard for high containment lab biosafety and biosecurity practices, including calling for development of a roadmap to support institutional implementation of ISO35001.

## Who should attend

*This event can accommodate about 100:*

- Scientists working with high-consequence pathogens
- High containment facility (BSL3/4) staff with responsibility for biosafety and biosecurity, including CEPI lab network partners from the global south
- Funders of global health security research
- Biosecurity and biosafety experts
- Scientific publishers
- Government stakeholders with regulatory oversight of national laboratory systems

## About the event

We will begin the event with opening remarks from **Trevor Smith, Global Affairs Canada** (tbc), who will set the scene for the discussion.

A panel of experts working in a range of fields will bring their perspectives to this discussion:

- **Patti Olinger**, Executive Director of the Global Biorisk Advisory Council and Convener, International Standards Organization (ISO), Technical Committee 212, Working Group 5 [invited]
- **Donald Ofili**, Director and Deputy Registrar, Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria [Confirmed]
- **Andrew Hebbeler**, Director of Biosecurity, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations [Confirmed]
- **Sacha Wallace-Sankarsingh**, Independent Public Health Specialist [Invited]

We will then open the floor for a broad discussion with participants, to determine how we can make concrete progress in this vital area for pandemic preparedness and response.