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# NCBI submission protocol for microbial pathogen surveillance

Ruth Timme<sup>1</sup>, Maria Balkey<sup>2</sup>, Sai Laxmi Gubbala Venkata<sup>3</sup>, Robyn Randolph<sup>4</sup>, William Wolfgang<sup>3</sup>, Errol Strain<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>US Food and Drug Administration, <sup>2</sup>Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, College Park, Maryland, USA, <sup>3</sup>Bacteriology Laboratory, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, Albany, New York, USA, <sup>4</sup>Association of Public Health Laboratories, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, <sup>5</sup>Center for Veterinary Medicine, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, College Park, Maryland, USA

**1** Works for me [dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.9aph2dn](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.9aph2dn)

GenomeTrakr

Tech. support email: [genomeTrakr@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:genomeTrakr@fda.hhs.gov)



Ruth Timme  
US Food and Drug Administration



## ABSTRACT

**PURPOSE:** Step-by-step instructions for submitting WGS microbial pathogen sequence data to NCBI and to the NCBI Pathogen Detection portal.

**SCOPE:** to provide a standardized protocol for NCBI submission for use by any other laboratory submitting WGS data for species under active surveillance within NCBI's Pathogen Detection. (This includes GenomeTrakr, NARMS, Vet-LIRN laboratories and other networks).

This protocol covers the following submission procedures:

- Create new BioProjects
- BioSample/metadata submission
- Sequence submission

## THIS PROTOCOL ACCOMPANIES THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION

Timme, RE, Wolfgang, WJ, Balkey, M, Venkata, SLG, Randolph, R, Allard, M, Strain, E. Optimizing open data to support OneHealth: Best practices to ensure interoperability of genomic data from microbial pathogens. In prep.

## BEFORE STARTING

There are a couple benefits to having the BioSample set up prior to submitting sequences, especially for new submitters to NCBI. Establishing the BioSample separately from uploading sequences allows you to upload available metadata for a large collection of isolates before they have been sequenced, which is common when sequencing historic collections. Also, submitting your BioSamples first, then submitting your sequence data separates the validation and troubleshooting at NCBI – enabling you to focus on errors for one database, rather than two. For these reasons we recommend starting with separating biosample and sequence submissions.

As users gain confidence, they can try the single step submission on smaller batches of samples. In cases where only a limited number of samples are going to be submitted (~a dozen or fewer samples under a single BioProject), it is possible to create the BioSample and submit sequence data in a single submission. This method can save time and effort by initiating a single submission vs two. However, validation issues can often hold up the entire submission, which could be complex to untangle for new users

## "Ingredients" to have in place before starting your submissions

- 1 **Bookmark NCBI's general submission instructions** for the Pathogen Detection portal. These can supplement steps in this protocol:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pathogens/submit-data/>

### 1.1

**Create an NCBI user account** at NCBI: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/account>



The screenshot shows the NCBI 'Sign in to NCBI' page. At the top, there are links for 'NCBI', 'Resources', and 'How To'. Below this, the 'Sign in with' section offers options for Google, Login, and Commons. A link 'See more 3rd party sign in options' is also present. An 'OR' separator follows. The 'Sign in directly to NCBI' section contains input fields for 'NCBI Username' and 'Password', a checked 'Keep me signed in' checkbox, and a 'Sign in' button. Below these are links for 'Forgot NCBI username or password?' and 'Register for an NCBI account', with a red arrow pointing to the latter.

- 1.2 **Create an NCBI submission user group** for your laboratory. This will allow multiple people to have edit privileges for your NCBI data submissions (multiple people could edit/retract data). This is highly recommended.

Submit a request via email to [submit-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:submit-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) containing the following information:

- Short name of the group (abbreviation, e.g. FDA-CFSAN)
- Full name of the group (The FDA-CFSAN GenomeTrakr submission group)
- Contact email(s) to start the group
- Institution and department or group
- Physical address including country
- Primary contact person first and last name and email. You can also provide an optional phone number.

**Editing a user group.** After a user group has been established you can freely edit membership by clicking in the “group” tab of the submission portal, <https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs> where you will find the list of groups containing your membership. You can add /delete members from groups for which you are an owner or have edit privileges.

U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Submission Portal

Home My submissions Manage data **Groups** Templates My profile

Your submissions

Start a new submission

- GenBank
- BioProject
- Sequence Read Archive
- BioSample
- Genome
- Supplementary Files
- TSA
- API

Filter / Search

From date To date Status Not deleted Sort by desc

Apps + Data archives +

Query Search Clear

- 1.3 **Bookmark “my submissions”** at NCBI: <https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs>. This is your landing page for all new NCBI submissions.

If you see a blank page with a yellow box in the upper right corner saying “please login”, click this link and login using the credentials created in 1.2.

The screenshot shows the NCBI Submission Portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'My submissions' (selected), 'Manage data', 'Groups', 'Templates', and 'My profile'. Below this, the 'Your submissions' section is displayed. On the left, there's a 'Start a new submission' button and a list of submission types: GenBank, BioProject, Sequence Read Archive, BioSample, Genome, Supplementary Files, TSA, and API. On the right, there's a 'Filter / Search' section with dropdowns for 'From date', 'To date', 'Status' (set to 'Not deleted'), and 'Sort by' (set to 'desc'). There are also buttons for 'Apps' and 'Data archives'. Below the filter section, there's a 'Query' input field and 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. The main content area shows a table of submissions. The table has columns: Submission ID, Title, App, Group, Status, and Updated. Two submissions are listed: SUB6510311 and SUB6502971. Both have the status 'BioSample: Processed' and 'SRA: Processed'.

Submission ID	Title	App	Group	Status	Updated
SUB6510311	UI-less submission 2019-11-04	API	fda	✓ BioSample: Processed Successfully loaded SAMN13192483 (TaxID: 1639) ✓ SRA: Processed (2 objects)	07:15
SUB6502971	UI-less submission 2019-11-01	API	fda	✓ BioSample: Processed Successfully loaded SAMN13207727 (TaxID: 670) ✓ SRA: Processed (2 objects)	06:44

- 1.4 **Umbrella BioProjects.** If you are already part of a surveillance network, e.g. GenomeTrakr, you should use one of their established umbrella bioprojects. Here are the GenomeTrakr Umbrella BioProjects for each species under surveillance.

- *Salmonella enterica* PRJNA183844
- *Listeria monocytogenes* PRJNA514048
- *Escherichia coli* and *Shigella* PRJNA230919
- *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* PRJNA245885
- *Campylobacter* sp. PRJNA258021
- *Clostridium botulinum* PRJNA290488

If you need to establish a new umbrella BioProject follow the BioProject creation in **Step 2** with modifications for creating a new Umbrella BioProject, then email the PRJNA accession to [pd-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](mailto:pd-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) and ask to have it flagged for submission to the Pathogen Detection pipeline. Any new data projects linked under this umbrella will inherit the linkage to Pathogen Detection.

1.5 

#### Download submission templates:

Link for all submission templates: <https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/templates>

**Metadata:** Download the metadata spreadsheet needed for creating new biosample accessions. This document is called the “combined pathogen package template” at NCBI:

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/biosample/docs/templates/packages/Pathogen.combined.1.0.xlsx>

**Sequence files:** Ensure your raw sequencing files were generated from an Illumina platform instrument (MiSeq, NextSeq, HiSeq, etc.) and download SRA’s batch metadata table:

- [ftp://ftp-trace.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/metadata\\_table/SRA\\_metadata\\_acc.xlsx](ftp://ftp-trace.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/metadata_table/SRA_metadata_acc.xlsx)

**Combined BioSample/SRA submission** (SRA template for submitting BioSample AND SRA within the same submission):

- [ftp://ftp-trace.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/metadata\\_table/SRA\\_metadata.xlsx](ftp://ftp-trace.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/metadata_table/SRA_metadata.xlsx)

### BioProject Creation

## 2 Create a new BioProject

Would you like your new BioProject linked to the GenomeTrakr network (relevant for foodborne pathogens)?

- **YES:** Proceed to **Step 2.1**, following instructions for creating new data BioProject(s) and link them to the established GenomeTrakr Umbrella BioProjects, which are already flagged for NCBI Pathogen Detection.
- **NO:** Are you part of another broad surveillance effort that might already have existing Umbrella BioProjects (e.g. Vet-LIRN, or NARMS)?

**YES:** Proceed to **Step 2.1**, following instructions for creating new data BioProject(s).

**NO:** Proceed to **Step 2.1**, following instructions for creating a new Umbrella **and** data BioProjects.

If you already have data BioProjects established, gather the relevant accessions and proceed to **Step 3**.

2.1

Navigate to the “My Submissions” page, <https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs>, and click “BioProject” in the “Start a new submission” box.

U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Submission Portal

Home My submissions Manage data Groups Templates My profile

Your submissions

Start a new submission

- GenBank
- BioProject**
- Sequence Read Archive
- BioSample
- Genome
- Supplementary Files
- TSA
- API

Filter / Search

From date To date Status Sort by

Not deleted

Apps + Data archives +

Query

Search Clear

96,398 submissions

← previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... 3,853 3,854 3,855 3,856 next →

Submission	Title	App	Group	Status	Updated
SUB6510311	UI-less submission 2019-11-04	API	fda	✓ BioSample: Processed Successfully loaded SAMN13192483 (TaxID: 1639)	07:15

2.2 Click the “New submission” box:

U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Submission Portal

Home My submissions Manage data Groups Templates My profile

BioProject New submission

ATTN: to update an existing record or recent submission, please email your request with your BioProject ID or Submission ID included. Do not create new submission to update an existing submission!

Short description and brief instructions +

Filter / Search

From date To date Status Sort by

Not deleted

Data archives +

Query

Search Clear

187 submissions

← previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 next →

Submission	Title	Group	Status	Updated
SUB320199	Listeria monocytogenes Database: isolates from FDA-CFSAN	fda	✓ BioProject: Processed PRJNA215355 : Listeria monocytogenes Database: isolates from FDA-CFSAN (TaxID: 1639) locustagprefix.txt	Nov 03

2.3 **Submitter tab:**

Populate with submitter info. The “submitter” is the name of the person who is physically doing the submissions, not a supervisor or PI.

Select the appropriate submission group name (see **Step 1.2** for creating a new submission group), and describe the submitting organization or laboratory name. This will be auto-populated from the contact info you included in your NCBI user account.

## 2.4 **Project type tab:**

Project data type: Genome sequencing and assembly.

Sample scope:

- For a **Data BioProject**: select multi-isolate. This will allow you to submit multiple isolates or strains of the same species.
- For an **Umbrella BioProject**: select multi-species. This will allow you to link multiple data BioProjects representing different species under a single umbrella.

## 2.5 **Target tab:**

- For a **Data BioProject**: Populate ONLY the Organism name here, usually Genus species, or just Genus if your laboratory does not determine species, e.g., *Salmonella enterica*. Leave the strain info and Description fields blank.
- For an **Umbrella BioProject**: Leave the Organism name field blank. Include a list or description of species you intend to include in this effort. E.g. "bacterial foodborne pathogens", or "Salmonella enterica, Listeria monocytogenes, and E.coli"

## 2.6 **General info tab:**

Click "Release immediately following processing".

Include a brief title describing the effort.

- **Data BioProject Title**: e.g., "GenomeTrakr Project: NY State Dept. of Health, Wadsworth Center".
- **Umbrella BioProject Title**: e.g. "Microbial pathogen surveillance at NY State Dept. of Health, Wadsworth Center."

Public Description: e.g., "Whole genome sequencing of pure-cultured microbial pathogens as part of XXXX surveillance effort."

Relevance: medical.

Is your project part of a larger initiative which is already registered at NCBI?

- Data BioProjects. Click "Yes" and include a brief description and umbrella BioProject accession number (see 5.1.5). This will properly link your data project to the umbrella.
- for an Umbrella BioProject: click "NO" External links: Include a link to your laboratory's website here.

## General Info

Required fields are marked with \* asterisk

### Release date

Note: Release of BioProject or BioSample is also triggered by the release of linked data.

★ When should this submission be released to the public?

- ☒ Release immediately following processing  
☐ Release on specified date or upon publication, whichever is first

★ Project title

GenomeTrakr Project: Kentucky Department for Public Health

★ Public description

Whole genome sequencing of cultured Salmonella enterica as part of the US Food and Drug Administration's WGS surveillance effort for the rapid traceback of foodborne pathogens.

Relevance

Medical

★ Is your project part of a larger initiative which is already registered with NCBI?

- ☐ No ☒ Yes (not very common)

★ Initiative description

GenomeTrakr network

★ BioProject accession

PRJNA183844

If you are registering a project that is part of an initiative which is already registered in the BioProject database, then please tell us the existing BioProject accession and provide a general description of the larger initiative. For example, the ENCODE project and Human Microbiome project have several subprojects. This information is needed for project linking.

### External Links

Description

Kentucky Department for Public Health - Division of Lat

URL

https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dls/Pages/default.asp

Delete

Add another link

## 2.7 BioSample tab:

Leave blank!! You will create biosamples separately.

## 2.8 Publications tab:

If relevant, include publications from your laboratory.

## 2.9 Review and Submit tab:

Check if everything looks correct and edit if necessary, then click "submit."



- 2.10 **The BioProject accession** will be available on the “my submissions” page of the Submission portal and usually starts with “PRJNAxxxxx.” You will also receive an email containing the new accession.

The screenshot shows the NCBI Submission Portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'My submissions', 'Manage data', 'Groups', 'Templates', and 'My profile'. Below this, the 'Your submissions' section is visible. On the left, there's a 'Start a new submission' button and a list of submission types: GenBank, Sequence Read Archive, Genome, TSA, BioProject, BioSample, Supplementary Files, and API. On the right, there's a 'Filter / Search' section with fields for 'From date', 'To date', 'Status' (set to 'Not deleted'), and 'Sort by' (set to 'desc'). Below this is a 'Query' field and a 'Search' button. The main table shows a list of submissions. The first submission is SUB320154, titled 'GenomeTrakr Project: Minnesota Department of Health'. The 'App' column shows 'GenomeTrakr', the 'Group' column shows 'GenomeTrakr Project: Minnesota Department of Health (TaxID: 28901)', and the 'Status' column shows 'BioProject: Processed'. A red arrow points to the 'Status' column. The 'Updated' column shows '16/22'.

## 2.11 For Umbrella BioProjects creation only:

The last step for establishment is to email [bioprojecthelp@ncbi.nlm.nih](mailto:bioprojecthelp@ncbi.nlm.nih) and [pd-help@ncbi.nlm.nih](mailto:pd-help@ncbi.nlm.nih) with two requests.

Example email:

*"Dear BioProject and PD help teams, please convert the PRJNA#### to an Umbrella Bioproject and flag it for inclusion in the Pathogen Detection pipeline. Our laboratory will be submitting data under the XXX effort (GenomeTrakr, Vet-LIRN, NARMS, HAI, or more general pathogen surveillance).*

*I'd be happy to provide any additional details you might need.*

*Thank you, "*

After the conversion is complete you can use the accession created to properly link any new data BioProjects being created, as in Step 2.6.

- 2.12 If you are part of a coordinated surveillance effort, like GenomeTrakr, please alert the coordinating body that a new bioproject was created under an existing umbrella (e.g, email [GenomeTrakr@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:GenomeTrakr@fda.hhs.gov)).

### 3 BioSample/metadata submission:

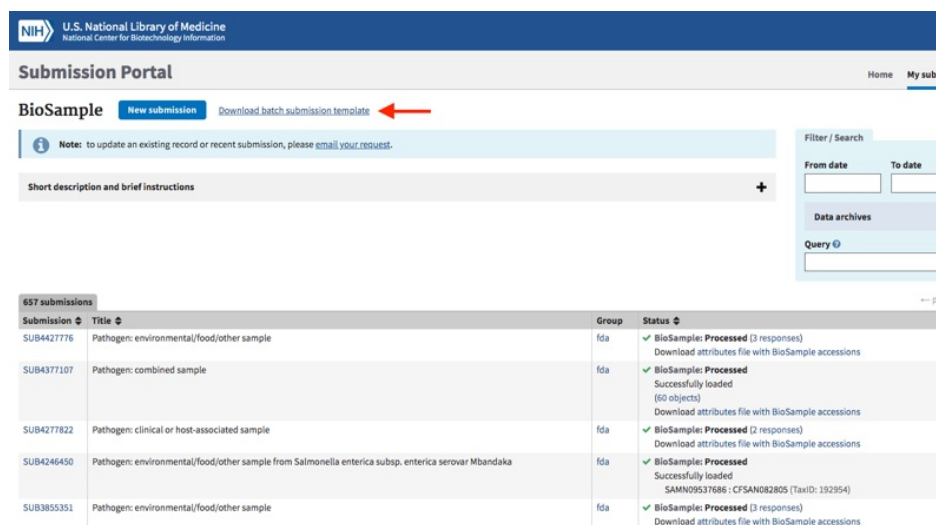
To register new BioSamples navigate to the “My Submissions” page (<https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs>) and click “BioSample” in the “Start a new submission” box (or navigate directly here: <https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs/biosample/>):

The screenshot displays the NCBI Submission Portal interface. At the top, the NIH logo and 'U.S. National Library of Medicine' are visible. The main navigation bar includes 'Home', 'My submissions' (active), 'Manage data', 'Groups', 'Templates', and 'My profile'. A 'New' button is also present. Below the navigation bar, the 'Your submissions' section features a 'Start a new submission' box on the left, which lists various submission types: GenBank, BioProject, Sequence Read Archive, BioSample (highlighted with a red box), Genome, Supplementary Files, TSA, and API. To the right of this box is a 'Filter / Search' section with input fields for 'From date', 'To date', 'Status' (set to 'Not deleted'), and 'Sort by'. Below these fields are buttons for 'Apps' and 'Data archives'. At the bottom of the page, a pagination bar indicates '96,398 submissions' and shows a sequence of page numbers from 1 to 9, followed by an ellipsis and page numbers 3,853, 3,854, 3,855, and 3,856. Below the pagination bar is a table header with columns: Submission, Title, App, Group, Status, and Updated.

### 3.1 Have you downloaded the metadata template?

If you don't already have the combined pathogen metadata excel template:

1. Click on "Download batch submission template":



NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Submission Portal

BioSample [New submission](#) [Download batch submission template](#)

Note: to update an existing record or recent submission, please email your request.

Short description and brief instructions

Filter / Search

From date To date

Data archives

Query

Submission	Title	Group	Status
SUB427776	Pathogen: environmental/food/other sample	fda	BioSample: Processed (3 responses) Download attributes file with BioSample accessions
SUB4377107	Pathogen: combined sample	fda	BioSample: Processed Successfully loaded (60 objects) Download attributes file with BioSample accessions
SUB4277822	Pathogen: clinical or host-associated sample	fda	BioSample: Processed (2 responses) Download attributes file with BioSample accessions
SUB4246450	Pathogen: environmental/food/other sample from Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica serovar Mbandaka	fda	BioSample: Processed Successfully loaded SAMN09537686 : CFSAN082805 (TaxID: 192954)
SUB3855351	Pathogen: environmental/food/other sample	fda	BioSample: Processed (3 responses) Download attributes file with BioSample accessions

2. Select the "Pathogen affecting public health" and the appropriate package depending on the type of isolates. We recommend using the combined template for simplicity.

★ Select the package that best describes your samples:

☒ **Pathogen affecting public health**  
Use for pathogen samples that are relevant to public health. Required attributes include those considered useful for the rapid analysis and trace back of pathogens.

☐ Clinical or host-associated pathogen

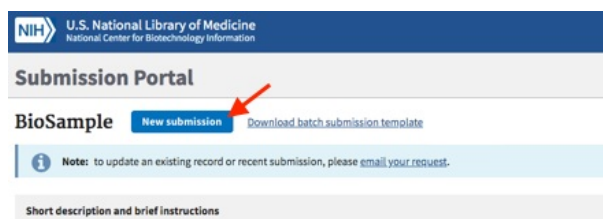
☐ Environmental, food or other pathogen

☒ **Combined pathogen submission**  
Helper template for batch submissions that include both clinical and environmental samples. In the "attribute\_package" field, specify either "Pathogen.cl" (for clinical or host-associated pathogen) or "Pathogen.env" (for environmental, food or other pathogen). Note that mandatory attributes are not completely represented in the template at this time, please refer to the clinical and environmental package definitions for requirements.

Populate the metadata spreadsheet for each isolate you intend to submit (you can submit metadata for a single MiSeq run, or for a large collection of isolates you intend to sequence).

Ensure that text is included for **ALL** mandatory fields. Include the word "missing, or "not collected" if data are not available for a given mandatory field (see **Table 3** in the main document for the core set of required fields – you are welcome, and encouraged, to include more metadata in the optional fields).

### 3.2 Click the "New submission" box.



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## Submission Portal

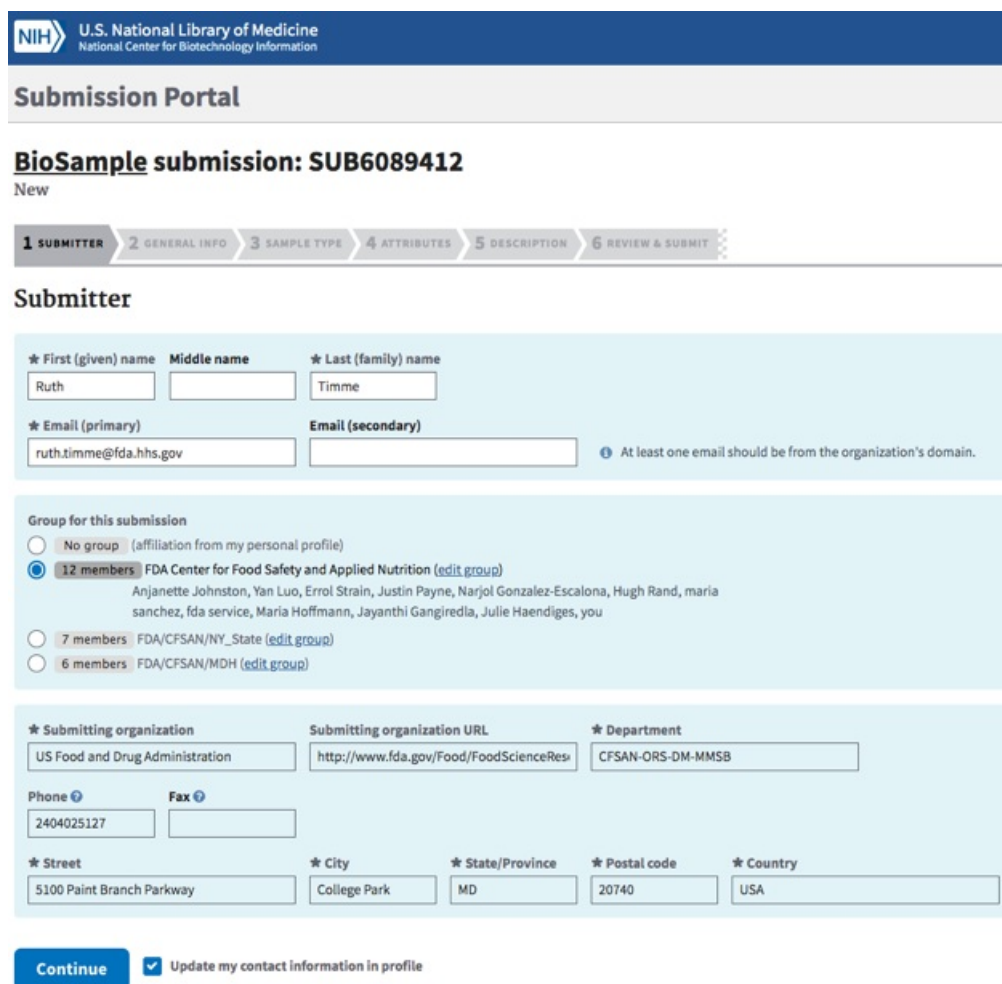
**BioSample** [New submission](#) [Download batch submission template](#)

**Note:** to update an existing record or recent submission, please [email your request](#).

Short description and brief instructions

### 3.3 Submitter tab:

Populate with submitter info. The "submitter" is the name of the person who is physically doing the submissions, not a supervisor or PI. Select the appropriate submission group name (see **Step 1.2** for creating a new submission group), and describe the submitting organization or laboratory name. This will be auto-populated from the contact info you included in your NCBI user account. Click "continue" to proceed.



NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

## Submission Portal

### BioSample submission: SUB6089412

New

1 SUBMITTER 2 GENERAL INFO 3 SAMPLE TYPE 4 ATTRIBUTES 5 DESCRIPTION 6 REVIEW & SUBMIT

### Submitter

★ First (given) name Middle name ★ Last (family) name  
Ruth Timme

★ Email (primary) Email (secondary)  
ruth.timme@fda.hhs.gov

At least one email should be from the organization's domain.

Group for this submission

☐ No group (affiliation from my personal profile)

☒ 12 members FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition ([edit group](#))  
Anjanette Johnston, Yan Luo, Errol Strain, Justin Payne, Narjol Gonzalez-Escalona, Hugh Rand, maria sanchez, fda service, Maria Hoffmann, Jayanthi Gangiredla, Julie Haendiges, you

☐ 7 members FDA/CFSAN/NY\_State ([edit group](#))

☐ 6 members FDA/CFSAN/MDH ([edit group](#))

★ Submitting organization Submitting organization URL ★ Department  
US Food and Drug Administration <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodScienceRes> CFSAN-ORS-DM-MMSB

Phone Fax  
2404025127

★ Street ★ City ★ State/Province ★ Postal code ★ Country  
5100 Paint Branch Parkway College Park MD 20740 USA

[Continue](#) ☒ Update my contact information in profile

### 3.4 General Info tab:

For real-time surveillance efforts you should click “release immediately following processing” (e.g. GenomeTrakr). Click the “Batch/Multiple BioSamples” option to upload the metadata spreadsheet.

#### **BioSample submission: SUB6089412**

New



#### **General Information**

##### Release date

**Note:** Release of BioProject or BioSample is also triggered by the release of linked data.

★ When should this submission be released to the public?

☒ Release immediately following processing

☐ Release on specified date or upon publication, whichever is first

★ Specify if you are submitting a single sample or a file containing multiple samples

☒ Batch/Multiple BioSamples

You will be asked to upload a tab-delimited text file that describes each of your samples and their attributes. Submission template files can be downloaded from the Attributes tab or the [templates page](#).

☐ Single BioSample

You will be asked to manually complete a web form to describe one sample and its attributes.

**Continue**

### 3.5 Sample Type tab:

Click Pathogen affecting public health, combined pathogen submission (or “Environmental, food or other pathogen” if no clinical isolates).

### 3.6 Attributes tab:

Click “upload a file using Excel” then “browse” to navigate to upload file.

**Please provide antibiogram data if you have it!**

### 3.7 Review and Submit tab:

Check over your submission for errors by clicking on hyperlink, then submit.

- 3.8 **BioSample accessions** will be available on the “my submissions” page of the Submission portal by clicking on “## objects” within the submission record. You can also download by clicking the “Download attributes file with BioSample accessions”. Accessions will start with SAMNxxxxxxx. You will also receive an email within 12 hours with these same accessions.

The screenshot shows the BioSample submission portal interface. At the top, there are links for 'New submission' and 'Download batch submission template'. Below this is a 'Filter / Search' section with fields for 'From date', 'To date', 'Status' (set to 'Not deleted'), and 'Sort by' (set to 'asc'). There are also buttons for 'Data archives' and 'Query'. The main content area displays a submission record for 'Pathogen: environmental/food/other sample' with a status of 'BioSample: Processed (1 responses)'. The record lists 24 objects (SAMN0986568 to SAMN0986591) and a 'Successfully loaded' status. A 'Download attributes file with BioSample accessions' link is visible at the bottom.

## Sequence data submission

### 4 Sequence submission

Navigate to the “My Submissions” page (<https://submit.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/subs>) and click “Sequence Read Archive” in the “Start a new submission” box:

The screenshot shows the NIH Submission Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'My submissions', 'Manage data', 'Groups', 'Templates', and 'My profile'. The 'My submissions' section is active. Below this is a 'Start a new submission' box with a list of options: GenBank, BioProject, Sequence Read Archive (highlighted with a red box), BioSample, Genome, Supplementary Files, TSA, and API. The 'Sequence Read Archive' option is selected. To the right of the 'Start a new submission' box is a 'Filter / Search' section with fields for 'From date', 'To date', 'Status' (set to 'Not deleted'), and 'Sort by' (set to 'asc'). There are also buttons for 'Apps', 'Data archives', and 'Query'. The main content area displays a list of submissions with columns for 'Submission', 'Title', 'App', 'Group', 'Status', and 'Updated'.

#### 4.1 Populate SRA's batch metadata table, downloaded from Step 1.5

If you have sequences to submit that belong to more than one BioProject, create a separate table for each of your BioProjects. We recommend using the sample name for the library ID so that you can copy and paste the biosample and sample name from the csv file returned from NCBI after the Biosample submission. This should help preserve the correct link between a biosample name and the sample as we create this second metadata sheet. (this would not be necessary in a single step submission).

Entering fastq filenames in the spreadsheet: On a Mac you can directly copy the files names from the folder into a spreadsheet. This is not possible on a PC using copy and paste but can be done with some command line operation.

Finally it is important to develop a QA/QC step to make sure the files are associated with the correct sample name. We do this using left function in excel to strip of the appended text in the file name and then use exact match to make sure the name matches the sample name.

Field	Description
BioSample	BioSample accession (SAMN#####)
Library ID	unique name for library (can be ID from LIMS)
Title	Free Text - GenomeTrakr looks like this, "Nextera XT library SEQ0000####"
Instrument	Illumina MiSeq (or other Illumina instrument)
Strategy	WGS
Source	GENOMIC
selection	RANDOM
Layout	PAIRED
Platform:	Choose from the dropdown menu. e.g. MiSeq
Design_description	Free text. e.g. "MiSeq deep shotgun sequencing of cultured isolate"
Filetype	fastq
Filename	genome_r1.fastq (*must be exact)
Filename2	genome_r2.fastq (*must be exact)
Filename3-8	list other fastq file names for NextSeq data

Save second sheet (SRA\_data) as a TSV (tab-delimited file) for upload in the "SRA metadata" tab within the submission portal.

\*NCBI should also accept the original excel formatted file.

#### 4.2 Click "New Submission" button at the top of the page:

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine  
National Center for Biotechnology Information

Submission Portal

Home My submissions Manage data Groups Templates My profile

Sequence Read Archive (SRA) **New submission**

Short description and brief instructions

Options to preload data:

- Aspera browser plugin upload
- Aspera command line and FTP upload options
- Amazon S3 instructions

30 submissions

Submission	Title	Group	Status	Updated
SUB010822	GenomeTrakr Project: US Food and Drug Administration, May 14 '19	Ida	✓ SRA: Processed (2 objects) Download metadata file with SRA accessions View and manage my SRA submission data	May 14
SUB0110190	GenomeTrakr Project: Bacillus cereus, New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center, Jan 31 '19	Ida, ny	✓ SRA: Processed (6 objects) Download metadata file with SRA accessions View and manage my SRA submission data	Jan 31



#### 4.3 **Submitter tab:**

Populate with personal and institutional information. The “submitter” is the name of the person who is physically doing the submissions, not a supervisor or PI. Select the appropriate submission group name (see **Step 1.2** for creating a new submission group), and describe the submitting organization or laboratory name. This will be auto-populated from the contact info you included in your NCBI user account.

#### 4.4 **General tab:**

Click yes for existing Bioproject and paste or type in your **data** BioProject accession.

**\*\*HINT:** group your submissions by BioProject since you can only specify one BP accession here.

Click **yes** for existing BioSamples.

Click “**release immediately after processing**”

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### Submission Portal

#### Sequence Read Archive (SRA) submission: SUB6089445

New

1 SUBMITTER 2 GENERAL 3 METADATA 4 FILES 5 REVIEW & SUBMIT

#### General Information

**BioProject**

Info BioProject describes the goal of your research effort.

Did you already register a BioProject for this research, e.g. for the submission of the reads to SRA and/or of the genome to GenBank?

☒ Yes ☐ No

★ Existing BioProject ⓘ

PRJNA186035 GenomeTrakr Project: US Food and Drug Administration Clear field

Organization: Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

**BioSample**

Info The BioSample records the detailed biological and physical properties of the sample that was sequenced. A BioSample can be used in more than one BioProject since it should be used for all the data that were obtained from that sample. Usually SRA data sets are generated from more than one sample.

Did you already register a BioSample for this sample, e.g. for the submission of the reads to SRA and/or of the genome to GenBank?

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Release date**

Info Note: Release of BioProject or BioSample is also triggered by the release of linked data.

★ When should this submission be released to the public?

☒ Release immediately following processing

☐ Release on specified date or upon publication, whichever is first

Info Please allow 24-48 hours for propagation of the data to the NCBI SRA public site.

Continue



#### 4.5 **Metadata tab:**

Click “Upload a file using Excel or text format (tab-delimited)” and “choose file” saved in **Step 4.1**.

#### 4.6 **Files tab:**

Check and resolve any validation errors

#### 4.7 **File upload:**

You can provide files for submission by:

- Web browser upload via HTTP or Aspera Connect plugin: Recommended for small batches. The upload is done directly in the GUI interface.
- FTP or Aspera Command Line file preload: Use this option if you are uploading files over 10 GB or more than 300 files. Requires beginner experience with command line. Obtain FTP and Aspera upload instructions in the submission FILES tab. It will include ftp address, username and password.
- Amazon S3 bucket.

#### 4.8 **Review and Submit tab:**

Check over entire submission, then click submit.

#### 4.9 **SRA Accessions:**

SRA run accessions will be available on the “my submissions” page of the Submission portal by clicking on “## objects” within the submission record. You can also download by clicking the “Download metadata file with SRA accession”. Accessions will start with SRRxxxxxxx.” You will also receive an email with these same accessions within 24 hours.

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Submission Portal

Home My submissions Manage data Groups Templates My profile

Sequence Read Archive (SRA) New submission

Short description and brief instructions +

Options to preload data:

Aspera browser plugin upload +

Aspera command line and FTP upload options +

Amazon S3 instructions +

Filter / Search

From date To date Status Not deleted Sort by desc

Data archives +

Query Search Clear

30 submissions

Submission	Title	Group	Status	Updated
SUB5616822	GenomeTrakr Project: US Food and Drug Administration, May 14 '19	fda	✓ SRA: Processed (2 objects) • SRR9052981 • SRR9052982 Download metadata file with SRA accessions View and manage my SRA submission data	May 14
SUB5110190	GenomeTrakr Project: Bacillus cereus, New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center, Jan 31 '19	fda_ny	✓ SRA: Processed (6 objects) Download metadata file with SRA accessions View and manage my SRA submission data	Jan 31
SUB5106005	GenomeTrakr Project: NY State Dept. of Health, Wadsworth Center, Jan 30 '19	fda_ny	✓ SRA: Processed (20 objects) Download metadata file with SRA accessions View and manage my SRA submission data	Jan 30



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