

The latest artificial intelligence safety report

3. AI companies have introduced biological and chemical risk safeguards

Big AI developers, including Anthropic, have released models with heightened safety measures after being unable to rule out the possibility that they could help novices create biological weapons. Over the past 5 year, AI “co-scientists” have become increasingly capable, including providing detailed scientific information and assisting with complex laboratory procedures such as designing molecules and proteins.



Anthropic has released models with heightened safety measures. Photograph: Dado Ruvic/Reuters

10 The report adds that some studies suggest AI can provide substantially more help in bioweapons development than simply browsing the internet, but more work is needed to confirm those results.

Biological and chemical risks pose a dilemma for

15 politicians, the report adds, because these same capabilities can also speed up the discovery of new drugs and the diagnosis of disease.

“The open availability of biological AI tools presents a difficult choice: whether to restrict those tools or to actively support their development for beneficial purposes,” the report said.

The Guardian, Dan Milmo Global technology editor - Tue 3 Feb 2026

Useful vocabulary

Word	Definition
biological weapon	weapon using viruses/bacteria
safeguard	protection, safety measure
novice	beginner, person with no experience
heightened	increased, stronger
to rule out	to eliminate as impossible
co-scientist	AI that helps with science
molecule	very small part of a substance
protein	substance in living things
substantially	significantly, a lot
dilemma	difficult choice between 2 options
beneficial	helpful, positive
to diagnose	to identify a disease