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Title:	Laboratory Attire Guidelines		
Program or Department:	Research	Document Type:	PROCEDURE
Effective Date:	January 21,2015	Author	Steven Hayes
Next Review Date:	January 21,2016	Reviewing Body:	Research Biosafety Committee
Emergency Code:		Approving Body:	Research Biosafety Committee
Keywords:	Biosafety ,Dress Code , Attire , Laboratory , Lab Coat	Document Number:	000001164

Associated Procedure

Clothing

When working in the lab, wear clothes that cover protect you from potential exposure to hazards (i.e. chemical, biological, radioactive, sharps, burns etc.) Acceptable clothing includes long pants or long skirts that cover your legs. Shorts are not allowed in labs. Bags and other personal effects should be stored in lockers or cabinets and must not be stored in the work areas of the laboratory.

Laboratory coat

Research workers must wear a purple collar lab coat (available from the Bio-Store in the basement of the LKSKI) while handling specimen and performing bench work in the lab. Lab coats must be removed before leaving the laboratory area and hung from the hooks provided in the laboratory areas.

Do not wear lab coats in washrooms, lunchrooms, offices, cafeteria, public elevators and office space within the laboratory areas.

If the lab coat has been contaminated, it must be placed in a marked yellow biohazard bag to prevent leakage. The bag must be labeled with the contaminant information. Take the coat to Logistics (Stores) located in 2CC Level B2 and it will be washed to ensure chemical and biological decontamination.

Footwear

Research Personnel must wear well-fitting closed heel and toe shoes to provide protection from spills and contact injuries. Clogs, high heels and sandals are not allowed in the lab.

Mask fitting (N95 mask)

When working with materials that may require the use of a mask (i.e. N95 Respirator), it must be fit tested by Corporate Health and Safety Services. It is mandatory for all hospital staff, student, and volunteers to be fit-tested for a respiratory mask. Contact Corporate Health and Safety Services at x6944 or visit them at 2-Shuter to schedule an appointment.

Gloves

Disposable gloves must be worn when performing procedures that might involve direct skin contact with laboratory samples, chemicals or biohazardous substances. Gloves must be removed once work is completed. Do not wear gloves outside of the lab or when moving from one floor to the other. Do not re-use disposable gloves. Always wash your hands after removing your gloves.

Gloves come in different materials and thickness – be sure to use one that is appropriate for the work you are doing. Be wary of break through time especially with repeated and/or prolonged contact with chemicals. It is recommended that gloves **NOT** be “sterilized” with alcohol prior to use due to the possibility of micro-hole formation in the gloves. I

Types of gloves:

Latex – natural rubber (use non-powdered) - Resists water, acids, alkalis, salts, hydrocarbons and blood and body fluids (human and animal)

Nitrile – synthetic rubber-Better chemical protection than latex, some are puncture resistant, better electrostatic dissipation

Neoprene – synthetic rubber-Superior chemical protection, good for handling acids/caustics, alcohols and solvents

Heat & cold resistant gloves

Face and eye protection

Do not wear contact lenses in the lab. If you are performing procedures that may result in splashes, wear splash resistant goggles to protect your eyes. Goggles should be decontaminated after each use.

Non-compliance

For individuals who have been given warnings about non-compliance, the issue will be brought to the attention of the Research Biosafety Committee (RBC). A multilayered enforcement mechanism is in place which includes but is not restricted to, removing access to the laboratory areas for the most severe transgression.

References

Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines 2013, 1st Ed.

Revision Number

Contact

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