



Lab Safety Officer Meeting

02/09/18



Safety Action Plan



- Plexiglas will be installed between desks and benches
- Blue tape on the floor will delineate PPE vs non-PPE areas where instruments/lab is shared with desks
- Wall-mounted bins for extra eye protection by entrance doors
- Hooks for lab coats near lab entrances (researchers should request them)
- **PI must email John Herrington (jherring@chemistry.ohio-state.edu) and Claudia Turro (turro.1@osu.edu) to request exemption from PPE rule for certain areas/labs. These exemptions must be approved by the Safety Committee.**
- Signs will be installed in shared instrument rooms regarding PPE rules.
- The use of lab coats in the undergraduate program is being phased-in.



PPE Rules in shared lab/desk areas



- Researchers required to wear lab coats, eye safety glasses, gloves, closed-toed shoes, and pants or skirts to the ankles in all laboratory spaces. In this document “PPE” refers to proper attire as defined above.
- In shared areas, a physical will be used to separate “zones” for PPE: PPE (PPE required) and non-PPE (PPE not required)
 - Plexiglas shield where desks are attached to benches and blue tape on the floor
 - Other shared areas: blue tape on floor
- In shared areas, PPE not required when moving from one zone to another, however, if a person stops in the middle the PPE zone, it could be considered a violation (for example, it is fine to walk from a door to desk without PPE, but not to stop and chat in PPE zone).
- **Shared lab/desk areas:** In primarily research spaces, full PPE is required and food/drink prohibited. In desk zones, PPE is not required, but food/drink is prohibited.
- **Outside lab and shared areas:** PPE is banned, and food/drink allowed



Individual Warning System



First Violation: The student/researcher and the PI will be notified of the first warning. The PI is expected to discuss with the student/researcher the need for PPE and highlight the culture of safety in the research lab. Documentation of the meeting will be sought using DocuSign signed by the PI and researcher.

Second Violation: The student or researcher will need to meet with Safety Committee to explain lack of PPE.

Third Violation: The student will receive a "U" for research in the research course for that term, such as CHEM 8999, and equivalent for undergraduates and graduate students in other program. The researcher will meet with the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies (for Chemistry graduate students) or with the Vice Chair of Administration (for others). For graduate students in other programs, the respective program director will be notified. Non-student researchers (postdocs, visitors, staff, and PIs) will meet with department chair and action may be taken.

Fourth Violation: This demonstrates the student's or researcher's inability to conduct research in any laboratory in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Student will received a second "U". Individual will not be permitted to work in a research lab.



Research Lab Warning System



First Violation: Warning.

Second Violation: The same or another researcher in the PI's group receives a warning. The PI will meet with the Safety Committee to explain safety measures and culture in the lab.

Third Violation: The PI will meet with department chair and it will be noted in their annual evaluation. This may affect salary increases and/or may be referred for university HR action.

Subsequent violations: Same as third violation.

Violation Forgiveness

For both Individual Violations and Research Lab Violations, the violation will be voided after two years. For example, if a researcher had a first violation on 1/1/2017 and second violation on 1/1/2018, the first violation will be voided on 1/1/2019 such that the individual would have one violation (instead of the original two) between 1/2/2019 and 1/1/2020. If no other violations by that individual took place, the researcher would be violation-free after 1/2/2020



Responsibility/Liability



- Each faculty member is (and can be held) responsible and liable for violations and accidents within their own research labs.
- Funding agencies place the responsibility of safety compliance on the PIs. The NSF guidelines state that "PIs are responsible for the safety and health of their teams".
- Recent case at UCLA, where a PI was charged and tried on four felony counts after a student in his lab died from burns sustained in an accident involving t-butyl lithium - the student was not wearing a protective lab coat at the time of the accident.



Bio/Biochem Standards



Biochem faculty provided the following information on industrial safety standards in bio labs:

Novartis, Biogen, and Vertex Pharmaceuticals:

- Researchers were required to wear closed-toed shoes, lab coats, gloves, and eye protection in the lab spaces
- When desks were attached to benches, a physical separation (plexiglas shields, tape on floor) were used to separate “zones” for PPE
- PPE was not required when moving from one zone to another, however, if a person stopped in the middle the PPE zone, it could be considered a violation (it would be ok to walk from a door to desk without PPE, but not to stop and chat in PPE zone).
- **Shared areas:** In primarily research spaces, full PPE was required and food/drink prohibited. In desk zones, PPE was not required, but food/drink was prohibited.
- **Outside those areas:** PPE was banned, and food/drink allowed



Bio/Biochem Standards



Other comments:

Biogen: Eye protection, lab coat, and gloves a must. If you need prescription, then you can get prescription safety glasses or wear large one over your regular glasses.

LabCentral: After three PPE violations, you would lose lab privileges (amounting to losing your job).

Emergent and NIAID: Wall-mounted boxes by every door stocked with gloves and goggles. Every scientist had their own lab coat and hook.