LABORATORY SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET 3
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN THE LABORATORY
INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

Follow the general safety rules and procedures on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) outlined below and any specific requirements stipulated for particular units or laboratory activities (including external activities). Consult the Faculty Policy on Personal Protective Equipment in the Laboratory for more information.

It is important that PPE be worn correctly at all times.

LABORATORY COATS

Students and staff must wear a laboratory coat in all laboratory classes in chemistry units, and all other laboratory classes that involve and/or include the handling or demonstration of the following:

- hot liquids and corrosive agents
- human body fluids
- dissection
- liquid radioactive materials

Students are required to provide their own laboratory coats for the above activities.

Laboratory coats are required to protect staff and students from splashes when handling liquids. Therefore, in order to ensure full protection, laboratory coats must be fastened with all buttons or studs secured and are worn with the sleeves rolled down covering any exposed skin of forearms. They should be laundered frequently.

In microbiology units, special wrap-around gowns must be worn. These are supplied by the School for student use. These gowns must not be removed from the laboratory.

In situations where blood products are being handles or demonstrated, plastic apron will be provided by the School and MUST be used. These aprons must also be disposed of in the correct infectious waste facilities as directed by the tutor or laboratory personnel.

FOOTWEAR

Thongs, scuffs, sandals and bare feet are not permitted in any laboratory at any time. This applies to both lecture and laboratory sessions that are conducted in a laboratory.

Only fully enclosed footwear which cover the heels, toes and instep are acceptable.

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GLOVES

Students must wear disposable rubber gloves for all activities where potentially infectious or dangerous materials are handled; for example, body fluids, radioactive materials, and some chemicals.

Latex gloves of small, medium, and large sizes are provided for all staff and students.

Chemically-resistant, heat-resistant and low temperature gloves must be used where required and instructed. These will be provided on request.

Note: Wearing of gloves does NOT replace the need for hand washing, as gloves may have defects or may become damaged during use.

SAFETY GLASSES AND OVERGLASSES

Safety glasses must be worn in all chemistry units, and during laboratory classes involving the following activities:

- when liquids are heated
- when corrosive reagents are poured
- when human body fluids are handled
- when handling power tools
- when using radioactive sources and materials
- when working with electric circuits containing capacitors
- when soldering

Safety glasses and overglasses are provided by the Faculty for staff and students to protect their eyes during laboratory activities. Therefore, in order to ensure full protection it is important that safety glasses are worn correctly resting on the nose protecting the eyes rather than resting on the head.

Safety overglasses are provided for students who wear prescription glasses.

Note that prescription glasses are not generally suitable as safety glasses.

More specialised eye protection (e.g. full-face visor) should be worn where required and instructed, and will be supplied on request.

Full face shields or visors must be worn during procedures involving the following:

- where splashing, splattering or spraying of blood or other body substances may occur
- when pouring cryogenic fluids
- where there is a risk of explosion or implosion

Full-face visors/shields should also be worn for procedures involving the following:

- where glass apparatus is evacuated, recharged with gas, or is pressurized
- when pouring corrosive liquids
- when combustion processes are being carried out