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## 1.0 PURPOSE

This policy details the correct laboratory attire for all research staff.

## 2.0 PROCEDURE

### Clothing

When working in the research laboratory, wear clothes that cover and 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, short skirts, short dresses 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

1. Research workers must wear a purple collar lab coat (available from the Stores located in 2 Cardinal Carter Level B2) while handling specimens and performing bench work in the lab. Frequently exchange used lab coats at the Stores.
2. Remove lab coats before leaving the laboratory area and hang them from the hooks provided in the laboratory areas. Do not wear lab coats in washrooms, lunchrooms, lounges, offices, cafeterias, public elevators, and office spaces within the laboratory areas.
3. If the lab coat has been contaminated, it must be placed in a marked yellow biohazard bag to prevent leakage. Label the bag with the contaminant information. Autoclave the lab coat prior to exchanging (Stores, 2 Cardinal Carter Level B2).

## **Footwear**

Research Personnel must wear well-fitting closed heel and toe shoes to protect 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, students, and volunteers to be fit-tested for a respiratory mask. Contact Corporate Health and Safety Services at [CHSS@smh.ca](mailto:CHSS@smh.ca) or visit them at 2 Bond South (2-417) 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. Research personnel must remove gloves once work is completed. Do not wear gloves outside 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 thicknesses – be sure to use one that is appropriate for your work. Be wary of the breakthrough 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.

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*- For handling autoclaved material, liquid nitrogen, -80°C samples and dry ice.

## **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 Director Research Facilities and VPRI. 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.

## 3.0 DEFINITIONS

Term/Acronym	Definition
VPRI	Vice President, Research and Innovation

## 4.0 REFERENCES

Canadian Biosafety Standards and Guidelines 2016, 2nd Ed.

Version	Approval/Sub-approval body	Approval date
01	Research Biosafety Committee Titled: Research Laboratory Attire Guidelines	January 1, 2015
02	Research Biosafety Committee	January 1, 2016
03	Research Biosafety Committee	January 1, 2019
04	Director Research Facilities Retitled: Laboratory Attire Guidelines	September 30, 2022
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