



Personal Protective Equipment While Conducting Animal Activities

Policy Steward: Assistant Vice President for Research, Director of the Animal Care and Use Office

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PURPOSE

To define the minimum standards of personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to control or prevent exposure to zoonotic organisms and allergens inherent in the animals as well as hazardous materials exposures due to research activities.

POLICY

The use of protective clothing and safety devices is mandated when working with laboratory animals. The required PPE for each circumstance is based on an OSEH risk assessment that takes into account the type and quantity of hazardous materials present, engineering control measures in place, and administrative controls to reduce exposure.

Animal handlers, for consistent approach, should reference information provided in [PPE for Animal Handlers](#) for minimal levels of protection. PPE may be upgraded or downgraded based on risk assessment of activities and hazards present, if warranted. Any changes in required PPE, need to be assessed in conjunction with OSEH and posted in the area of work. In addition, OSEH representatives are available to assist with the proper selection of equipment and training for staff, but the primary responsibility for training staff on the appropriate use of PPE is the responsibility of the principal investigator or area supervisor. It is the responsibility of all personnel entering an area to understand the PPE required for the work, to note any change in the equipment required and make proper use of it.

Personnel with specific exposure to hazardous substances, as determined by OSEH in consultation with OHS, may have a mandatory requirement to wear a respirator. Personnel that have developed allergies to animals, as determined by OHS, may also have a mandatory requirement to wear a respirator. Areas or operations that require the mandatory use of a respirator will be posted. Staff will be fit tested for the appropriate respirator and will be entered into the [OSEH Respiratory Protection Program](#). These required uses of respiratory protection supersede the minimum PPE requirements as posted for an area. A surgical mask is not considered a respirator requiring entry into the OSEH respiratory protection program.



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Personnel that work in laboratory areas may also be required to wear additional PPE as required based on hazards present in the lab. Refer to the door sign posted for the lab for requirements.

Concerns regarding the use of PPE in animal activities are to be reported to the Animal Care and Use Office (ACUO), Occupational Safety and Environmental Health (OSEH), Institutional Official, or through either the University of Michigan Animal Care and Use Hotline (1-734-763-8028) or the Compliance Hotline (1-866-990-0111). All reports of concern are resolved in a timely manner through an anonymous investigation by the IACUC, OSEH, or any other relevant unit.

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all animal research conducted under the auspices of the University, and applies to all campus locations, including Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn. (Note: At Flint and Dearborn, the responsibility for consultation on proper use of PPE falls to the local campus safety office).

DEFINITIONS

- **Personal Protective Equipment** is equipment worn to minimize exposure to a variety of hazards. Examples of PPE include such items as gloves, foot and eye protection, protective hearing devices (earplugs, muffs) hard hats, respirators and full body suits.

COMPLIANCE

The IACUC has delegated authority to enforce the provisions of this policy, and if necessary suspend research, or implement sanctions if policy infractions should occur. Including but not limited to; (1) monitoring activities covered by this policy; (2) enforcing the implementation of the defined biosafety requirements; and (3) implementing sanctions, penalties, and/or suspensions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions, additional detail, or to request changes to this policy, please contact the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Research, Director of the Animal Care and Use Office.

CROSS REFERENCES

Other policies should also be referenced, especially:

1. [Personal Hygiene Requirements when Conducting Animal Activities](#)