

Personal Protective Equipment Policy

Summary

All St. John's University faculty, staff, and students working or teaching in research and/or teaching laboratories must wear appropriate attire and select Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Appropriate laboratory attire includes closed-toed, non-absorbent shoes, long pants (or other leg covering), and a sleeved shirt or blouse. Whenever laboratory personnel are working with tissue cultures, cells, organisms, animals, chemicals and/or laboratory equipment, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be selected and utilized¹. Principal Investigators (PI) and Laboratory Supervisors will perform a "Hazard Assessment" to identify specific laboratory hazards and to determine the appropriate PPE for specific laboratory operations and experiments.

Purpose

This policy serves a three-fold purpose:

1. To promote the health, safety and well-being of all persons working in the laboratory setting by minimizing the exposure risk to laboratory hazards.
2. To educate and train our students in the proper laboratory health and safety concerns.
3. To maintain compliance with applicable regulations cited below.

Responsibility

1. Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)

It is the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) to inspect the laboratories to ensure that proper attire is evident, and that proper PPE is utilized. EH&S will furnish a Hazard Assessment Form. EH&S will provide assistance, on request, in performing hazard evaluations, reviewing hazard assessments with the PI/supervisor, and providing assistance in selecting appropriate PPE. EH&S will maintain a PPE Selection List on the EH&S website.

2. Principle Investigator/Supervisor

It is the responsibility of the principal investigator (PI)/supervisor to perform a Hazard Assessment, complete a Hazard Assessment Form, and inform all laboratory personnel about the identified hazards. Completed Hazard Assessment forms must be posted inside the laboratory and/or filed with EH&S. Further, the PI/supervisor will procure the PPE, provide training about the proper selection and use of PPE, and ensure the appropriate use of PPE.

References

29 CFR 1910 [1910.132(a); 1910.132(d); 1910.1450(f)(4)(i)(C)]
ANSI Z87.1-2010

¹ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) includes, but is not limited to, fire-resistant lab coats, safety glasses, chemical splash-goggles, face-shields, and chemical resistant gloves.