

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

## I. Purpose

- A. The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to describe the proper attire required for working in designated animal areas.
- B. Individual clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements are determined by a risk assessment of the workplace and hazards, review of a MSDS or other suitable information, and assessment by the Occupational Health and Safety Program.
- C. Consult appropriate signage at the entrance of the room or facility for any specific requirements.
- D. Clothing and PPE designated for animal areas should not be worn in public areas.

## II. Responsibility

- A. Any person working with animals or in animal areas is responsible for following appropriate PPE requirements.

## III. Procedures

- A. Outer Protective Clothing
  - 1. Wear dedicated work clothes or outer protective clothing (e.g., lab coat, scrubs, gown, Tyvek suit) in animal facilities, especially when in contact with:
    - a. Infected animals, their waste or bodily fluids
    - b. Infectious or chemical hazard
    - c. SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) animals maintained in a barrier facility
  - 2. Keep clean clothes available and change as often as needed. Weekly laundry service is provided for full-time LARAC employees. Student workers are responsible for their own laundry. Other employees may take laundry to CVM laundry services.
  - 3. Restrict clothes to a given group of animals with the same health status (e.g., same room, same herd, similar infectious status). Do not wear clothes outside the facility (i.e., in public areas).
  - 4. Cover legs, feet, and arms when working with chemical or infectious hazards.
- B. Gloves
  - 1. Wear gloves whenever there is contact with urine, feces, blood, or other biological fluids, infectious, or chemical hazards.
  - 2. Change gloves frequently to minimize fomite contamination within the animal room.

3. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, or use an alcohol sanitizer at the end of the procedure or upon leaving the facility.
- C. Mucous Membrane, Respiratory Protection
1. Utilize a face mask if there is a risk of splashing or droplet exposure to mucous membranes.
- D. Ocular/Facial Protection
1. Wear protective glasses or protective glasses and a face shield (face shields alone are not a substitute for appropriate eyewear) whenever there is a risk of exposure or physical injury to the face/eyes.
  2. If there is a risk of splashing with chemical hazards, wear splash goggles in place of protective glasses.
- E. Foot Protection
1. Wear disposable shoe covers whenever working with:
    - a. Infected animals or their waste
    - b. Infectious hazards
    - c. Animals where signage indicates shoe covers should be worn
  2. Closed-toed shoes must be worn in animal facilities. Sandals and open-toed shoes are not permissible.
  3. Dedicated working shoes or shoe covers are recommended when working with SPF animals inside a barrier. These working shoes should not be worn outside the facility.
  4. Shoes/boots can be a vector for infectious agents. A foot bath should be available at the entrance and/or exit of a facility where infectious animals are located.
  5. Shoes with protective steel caps are recommended when working with large animals or heavy cages.
- F. Hearing Protection
1. Hearing protection may be necessary when working in areas or facilities where noise may be a concern (e.g., areas with large numbers of dogs, cage washing equipment).
  2. Personnel who are exposed to 85 decibels or greater (when averaged over an eight hour work day) are required to wear ear plugs. Ear plugs are available in every animal facility.