

Laboratory Visitor Assumption of Risk and Acceptance of Safety Procedures

There are certain risks and exposures that you will be assuming when you enter a laboratory. You are responsible for observing both universal safety precautions and specific safety guidance when in a George Mason University laboratory. By signing this document, you acknowledge the risks and agree to observe all safety procedures as prescribed by the Principle Investigator and/or Laboratory Supervisor (PI/LS).

1. There is an inherent danger when visiting any laboratory. Laboratory hazards that you may be exposed to include but are not limited to toxics, flammables (including explosives), corrosives (acids and basics), oxidizers, radioactive materials, loud noises, animal dandruff, sharp surfaces, noxious odors, and ultraviolet light. In addition, there are the hazards of the laboratory itself: glass containers, scalding water, centrifuges, Bunsen burners, and sharp objects. Although the University complies with all applicable Local, State, and Federal regulations, and attempts to ensure its laboratories are as safe as possible, visitors must maintain a continual vigilance when in a laboratory.

2. Persons who suffer allergic reactions, are pregnant, have sensitive skin, or have other medical issues must make these concerns known to the PI/LS. Material Safety Data Sheet(s) (MSDS) for the hazardous materials used in the laboratory are available for review via the PI/LS.

3. Universal Safety Precautions: (a) Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as prescribed by the PI/LS (b) Wear clothing that covers arms, legs, and feet, (c) Long hair must be tied back, (d) Maintain a state of personal cleanliness and immediately wash off any chemicals or other hazardous material that comes in contact with your body, (e) Keep the benches and aisles free of unnecessary items, (f) Do not place any personal items on laboratory work surfaces (g) Do not handle or manipulate laboratory equipment (h) Do not smoke, eat, drink, apply cosmetics, or chew gum in the laboratory, (i) In the event of an accident, immediately notify the PI/LS.

4. Report all injuries and emergencies: (a) Know the location of the fire extinguisher, emergency showers and eyewashes, fire blankets, the fire alarm, and the means of egress, (b) In the event of strange odors, fumes, and sounds; report them to the PI/LS as soon as they are noticed, (c) Be aware of other activities in the laboratory in order to safeguard yourself in the event of a mishap, and (d) Follow all directions and restrictions given by the PI/LS.

5. Additional specific safety instructions and/or MSDSs for your visit are attached:
YES NO (Circle as appropriate)

6. This form is valid only for the visit date specified below. Subsequent visits require additional forms.

Visit date: _____ PI/LS: _____

I _____ have read the above and agree to accept and comply with them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Parent or Guardian must sign approval if visitor is under 18 years old)