



Animal Facility SOP 26.2 Personal Protective Equipment

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I. Purpose

This SOP describes the policies and procedures for all use of Protective Equipment (PPE) within the animal facility.

II. Scope

This applies to all facility users and staff including investigators, their personnel and visitors on official duty.

III. Definitions

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Personal protective equipment is equipment worn to minimize exposure to a variety of hazards. Examples of PPE include lab coats, gloves, hair covers, foot protection (steel-toed shoes), shoe covers, eye protection (safety glasses or goggles), protective hearing devices (earplugs, muffs), hard hats, masks and respirators, etc.

Laboratory/Technical Areas: A laboratory/technical area is any location where hazardous materials or equipment may present a potential hazard or may be used or stored. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Research laboratories
- Teaching laboratories
- Animal procedure rooms
- Animal housing rooms
- Stock rooms
- Waste accumulation areas/locations
- Storage rooms
- Sanitizing rooms and equipment use
- Loading docks
- Shipping/Receiving locations

IV. Requirements For Entering the Facility

PPE is Required for entering the facility and working with animals

4.1. Each supervisor shall verify that personnel are enrolled in the occupational health program

- Updated Occupational Health assessment must be repeated when new hazards are identified or at least every three (3) years.

4.2. General PPE Requirements.

- All personnel are required to wear disposable or washable gowns/lab coats and shoe covers to enter the animal facility.
- To enter a rodent room face masks are required, respirators are optional
- To work with rodents, disposable gloves are required

4.3. Additional PPE Requirements. Each supervisor/PI is responsible for provision of any additional PPE recommended by the hazard assessment. Typically this includes a respirator such as an N95 respirator.

4.4 Training. Each supervisor/PI will assure workers know how to properly wear, adjust and maintain assigned PPE. Workers will demonstrate an understanding of the proper use of assigned PPE.

4.5. Each worker is responsible for wearing required PPE when in the facility. They are also responsible for informing their supervisor when PPE needs to be replaced.

Link to Risk Assessment [Form](#).