

GENERAL LAB SAFETY NOTES

For Students

PROPER ATTIRE:

Proper laboratory attire includes the following for all labs:

- Closed toe shoes
- Long pants
- Hair longer than shoulders pulled back

If need more protection than normal, the lab will provide the following items:

- Disposable lab coats
- Protective eyewear
- Disposable masks
- Disposable gloves

If any/ all of these items are necessary, then we will inform students prior to class. We will lie out necessary protective gear before class begins, and note where they can find these materials.

LAB SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

There are three hoods in the lab that flank the sink in the far corner of the room. Two are culture hoods that the 9.12 class will use, and the other is a fume hood (general for both classes).

Note the differences between these two hoods and their uses:

- Fume hoods vent from the back and filter noxious chemicals.
- Culture hoods vent from the front and if used properly, maintain sterile environments.

There are also individual snorkel vents located over every workstation on the lab benches. Please turn these on if you are working with noxious materials (such as preserved brains). To open the vent, turn the long dial on the side of the vent.

There are four sharps containers located in the room. Two are stationed behind the middle lab bench. Two are in the far corner of the room next to the animal vestibule. Objects that one can place in these containers include but are not limited to:

- Glass slides
- Pipets (glass or hard plastic)
- Syringes
- Scalpel blades
- Other broken glass or metal objects.

These items may or may not be bio-hazardous. Note however, that one can dispose of sharp materials **ONLY** in these bins. Regular trash is not permitted.

N.B. Never place a scalpel blade on a handle or remove it. For your safety, leave this job to the teaching staff.

There are three wash stations in the lab. Two are eyewash, and one is a shower. The first eyewash is located next to the sink. The second eyewash and the shower are next to each other and are located behind the middle lab bench and next to the icemaker. Do **NOT** pull the shower cord unless there is an actual emergency use for it or else you will flood the lab.

WASTE DISPOSAL:

There are few chemicals that can go down the sink or throw away in the regular trash. Unless specifically told otherwise, treat all solutions/chemicals as if they cannot go down the sink.

For chemical waste- There are containers for both solid and liquid waste located on the floor next to the fume hood. There are multiple liquid waste containers in a satellite container, each for different chemicals. Contact the lab manager or a teaching assistant before disposing **ANY** lab waste, so that we properly

discard the waste. If there is a full waste container, liquid or solid, contact the lab manager.

For bio-hazardous waste- Sharp biohazard waste should be discarded in the sharps containers (see above). For all other biohazard waste, the lab manager will have biohazard bags. We will alert students to the location of the bag and what must be placed in the bag at the beginning of a lab session. Please place the proper waste in the bag, and the lab manager will dispose the waste properly.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

There is an EHS packet of information by the phone. The phone is located next to the animal vestibule door. This packet tells one what to do in case of a chemical, biological, etc. emergency. Know the location of this packet for use.

CLEANING SUPPLIES AND GENERAL CLEANING INFO:

All cleaning agents for the lab are located under the sink. These include the following:

- Alconox
- Bleach
- Lysol disinfectant
- Fantastik
- Sporocidin (virucide, bactericide, fungicide)
- Extra sponges
- Extra hand soap

There will always be an open bottle of hand soap to the right sink. A sponge and cleaning brush are located to the left of the sink. There is usually a bucket of soapy water to the left of the sink also.

For general reference, the lab manager convention is that everything to the left of the sink is dirty, and everything to the right of the sink is clean. For example, if one uses scissors to cut tissue, then those scissors should be placed to the left of the sink for cleaning when one is finished with them. Clean items are also placed on clean diapers to dry. Note that the diapers are on the right side of the sink only.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

Make sure to leave the lab/lab station as you found it. A clean lab is a happy lab, and a happy lab is a happy lab manager. If one needs gloves in the lab, remember to change them often. If you are unsure if something is clean or dirty, treat it as dirty. If you are unsure if a chemical can go down the sink, treat it as if it cannot. Always ask questions. If you cannot find something or don't know what to do, ask a member of the teaching staff. Never be apprehensive about asking for help.