



Safety in the teaching laboratory is the goal of every researcher and instructor at Texas A&M University. Implementation of safety procedures is not intended to create a restrictive environment, but rather to assist in the safe conduct of research and teaching activities involving possibly hazardous materials. The rules are stated to help educators maintain safe working conditions and reduce the chance of exposure to biohazards.

FOR LABORATORY DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS

- Either non-pathogenic or attenuated bacterial strains should be used whenever possible, especially in teaching laboratories. This practice will help reduce the risk of students and/or their family members becoming ill.
- Individuals working with infectious agents must be aware of potential hazards and trained and proficient in the practices and techniques required for handling such agents safely.
- Educators should train all individuals working in the laboratory on the symptoms of infection and advise them to call their health care provider if they or a family member have any of these symptoms.
- All students and employees using the laboratory should be trained in biosafety practices.
- Hand washing sinks must be equipped with soap and paper towels at all times. Require students and employees to wash their hands after working with biohazards, after removing their gloves, and before leaving the laboratory.
- Lab coats are not allowed to leave the microbiology laboratory. Lab coats should be placed in an appropriate bag to be autoclaved, and laundered by the institution for decontamination. Disposable lab coats may be deposited in the biohazard trash.
- Food, drinks, or personal items (cell phones, etc.) are not allowed while working in the laboratory.
- Writing utensils, paper, and other supplies should be provided to students at each laboratory station. These items should not be allowed to leave the laboratory. Lockers should be provided to students to store their backpacks, coats, purses, and other personal items.

A comprehensive set of biosafety guidelines for work with many human pathogens can be found in:

- *CDC/NIH Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* manual;
- *Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in Human and Animal Medical Diagnostic Laboratories MMWR Supplement*;
- *Guidelines for Biosafety Laboratory Competency MMWR Supplement*; and
- Public Health Agency of Canada's pathogen data safety sheets.
(<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/lab-bio/res/psds-ftss/index-eng.php>)

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