



Safety in the teaching laboratory is the goal 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 EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

- Bacteria used in microbiology laboratories can make you or others who live in your household sick, even young children who have never visited the laboratory.
- Laboratory supplies should not be taken out of the laboratory. It is possible for you to carry bacteria home through contaminated lab coats, pens, notebooks, and other items that you use in the microbiology laboratory.
- If you work with any infectious agents you must be aware of potential hazards and be trained and proficient in biosafety practices and techniques:
  - Wash hands frequently while working with biohazards and immediately before leaving the microbiology laboratory. This is extremely important before preparing food or baby bottles, before eating, and before contact with young children.
  - Leave food, drinks, or personal items (car keys, cell phones, etc.) outside of the laboratory. These items can become contaminated if brought into the laboratory.
  - Wear a lab coat or other protective garment over personal clothing when working in a microbiology laboratory. Remove protective garments before entering non-laboratory areas (cafeteria, library, administrative offices). Dispose of protective garments appropriately. Lab coats should be placed in an appropriate bag to be autoclaved and laundered by the institution for decontamination.
- Pathogenic bacteria can make you sick. Know the signs and symptoms of disease and watch for symptoms of infection which could include diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps. Call your health care provider if you or a family member has any of these symptoms.

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