**Title:** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

<table>
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<th>Policy Number:</th>
<th>2014-045</th>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible Department:</td>
<td>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</td>
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<td>Approval Date:</td>
<td>10/8/14</td>
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**Purpose of Policy:** This purpose of this policy is to prevent or minimize the risk of illness to personnel and research animals.

**Policy Information:** The United States Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that “Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition wherever it is necessary by reason of hazards of processes or environment, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption, inhalation or physical contact”.

Certain animals and animal materials, such as tissues, body fluids and wastes, carry diseases or disease agents that are transmissible to humans (zoonotic diseases). Diseases may also be transmitted from humans to animals (reverse zoonoses). Exposure control methods used to prevent or minimize health risks to personnel and animals include, but are not limited to:

- engineering controls such as
  - barrier facilities
  - chemical fume hoods
  - biological safety cabinets
  - isolation cages
  - ventilated caging systems
  - downdraft necropsy tables
- work practices such as
  - restricting access to work areas
  - keeping hands away from mouth, nose, eyes and skin
  - washing hands when contaminated and when work is completed
  - decontaminating work surfaces before and after work
  - wearing personal protective equipment (PPE)
As stated in National Research Council’s *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals*, “The use of PPE is the final measure for controlling exposures to potentially hazardous agents by providing a physical barrier to hazardous materials that might otherwise come into contact with the personnel’s skin, eyes, mucous membranes and clothes”.

**Policy:**

1. For the protection of personnel and research animals, all persons entering an animal room within any Western University owned or operated vivarium must at a minimum wear the following PPE:
   - appropriate disposable gloves (latex or nitrile). Disposable gloves must not be re-used.
   - gown (preferably disposable) or laboratory coat. Such garb is not to be worn outside the work area.
   - face mask
   - hair net
   - shoe covers

2. Persons entering the hallways of a vivarium but not entering a room in which animals are housed must at a minimum wear shoe covers.

3. Per Institutional Animal Care and Use Policy No. 39, all persons working with or around research animals, their tissues, body fluids, wastes, or who are exposed to animal allergens on a regular basis or who come into contact with animals must enroll in the Occupational health and Safety Program.