

TITLE:	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Policy Number:	2014-045
Responsible Department:	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Policy Contact: Designation: E-Mail:	Donald E. Walters, Ph.D. Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee dewalters@westernu.edu
Approval Date:	10/8/14
Reviewed:	11/8/17 (No changes); 6/10/2020; 10/16/2020
Revised:	3/9/16; 6/10/2020 (Added facility-designated footwear & that EH&S might recommend additional PPE); 10/16/2020 (modified PPE requirements)
Legislation:	29 CFR 1910.132-136

Purpose of Policy: To prevent or minimize the risk of inadvertent exposure of personnel and research animals to harmful materials, such as infectious agents and toxic chemicals.

Policy Information: The United States Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration ([OSHA](http://www.osha-slc.gov)) 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), especially when working with immunodeficient animals. Exposure control methods used to prevent or minimize health risks to personnel and animals are classified into three broad categories. They are, in decreasing order of importance:

1. Engineering controls, such as:
 - directional airflow in corridors, rooms and animal enclosures
 - barrier facilities
 - chemical fume hoods
 - biological safety cabinets
 - micro-isolator cages
 - individually ventilated caging (IVC) systems
 - downdraft necropsy tables

2. Administrative controls and work practices, such as:
 - Clearly written standard operating procedures (SOPs).
 - Proper training of personnel
 - Restricted access to work areas, where appropriate.
 - Keeping hands from coming into contact with mouth, nose, eyes and skin
 - Washing hands often, i.e., before, during and after work
 - Cleaning and decontaminating work surfaces before and after work

3. 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 wear the appropriate PPE as outlined in the signs posted in the facility entrance or each animal room.
2. All PPE must be removed and discarded prior to exiting the animal facilities according to the procedures outlined in SOP DAR2017-002 and DAR2017-002L.
3. Per Institutional Animal Care and Use Policy No. 2014-039, 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.
4. PPE not covered by an SOP may be recommended by Environmental Health and Safety following review by the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Any such recommendations must be written into the Institutional Animal Care and Use protocol and be posted on the door to the room in which the animals are housed.

Related Policies: IACUC Policy No. 2014-039, Occupational Health and Safety Program; IACUC Policy No. 2014-040, Occupational Health and Safety Policy for Visitors