



Cornell University

Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education

CARE715.02 Personal Protective Equipment

The intent of this standard operating procedure is to describe the proper attire required for working in designated animal areas. This SOP is intended for use by everyone entering animal facilities. This procedure is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). Any exemption must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

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1 Introduction

- a. The Animal Users Health and Safety Program Determines the personal protective requirements.
- b. Consult appropriate signage at the entrance of the room or facility for any specific requirements.

Note: Clothing and PPE designated for animal areas should not be worn in public areas.

2 Materials

- a. Dedicated work clothes or outer protective clothing (e.g., lab coat, scrubs, gown, Tyvek suit)
- b. Gloves
- c. Mucous membrane, respiratory protection (e.g., face masks, respirators)
- d. Eye and facial protection (e.g., safety glasses, face shield, splash goggles)
- e. Foot protection (e.g., dedicated foot wear, shoe /boot covers)
- f. Hearing protection (e.g., ear plugs, ear muffs).

3 Procedures

- a. Wear dedicated work clothes or outer protective clothing (e.g., lab coat, scrubs, gown, Tyvek suit) in animal facilities, especially when:
 - directly handling animals;
 - in areas with infected animals, their waste or bodily fluids

- in areas with infectious, radioactive &/or chemical hazard;
 - in areas with SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) animals maintained in a barrier facility.
- b. Keep clean clothes available and change as often as needed. Single use, disposable clothing is preferred. Provide laundry service at the workplace for reusable clothing. If laundry service is unavailable, bag and autoclave clothing prior to laundering at home.
 - c. Restrict clothes to a given group of animals with the same health status (e.g., same room, same herd, similar infectious status). Do not wear clothes outside the facility (i.e., in public areas).
 - d. Cover legs, feet, and arms when working with chemical, infectious, or radioactive hazards.
 - e. Wear gloves whenever there is contact with animals, urine, feces, blood, or other biological fluids, infectious, chemical, or radioactive hazards.
 - f. Change gloves frequently to minimize fomite contamination within the animal room. Use of double gloves (i.e., outer and inner pairs) facilitates frequent PPE changing within an area while preventing skin contact.

Note: Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, or use an alcohol sanitizer at the end of the procedure or upon leaving the facility.

- g. Utilize a face mask if there is a risk of splashing or droplet exposure to mucous membranes.
- h. Consult with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) to determine the need for respiratory protection against airborne hazardous materials and allergens. Respiratory protection includes disposable respirators such as N95 filtering face pieces.
- i. If respiratory protection is required, you must enroll in the Respiratory Protection Program.
- j. Wear protective glasses or protective glasses and a face shield (face shields alone are not a substitute for appropriate eyewear) whenever there is a risk of exposure or physical injury to the face/eyes.
- k. Regular eyeglasses used to correct vision are not considered protective; wear additional protective glasses or protective glasses and a face shield.
- l. If there is a risk of splashing with chemical hazards, wear splash goggles in place of protective glasses.
- m. Wear disposable shoe covers whenever working with:
 - infected animals or their waste
 - infectious or radioactive hazards
- n. Closed-toed and closed healed shoes must be worn in animal facilities. Sandals, clog style shoes, and open-toed shoes are not permissible.
- o. Dedicated working shoes or shoe covers are recommended when working with SPF animals inside a barrier. These working shoes should not be worn outside the facility.
- p. Shoes/boots can be a vector for infectious agents. Have a foot bath and/or boot wash station available at the entrance and/or the exit of the facility.
- q. Hearing protection may be necessary when working in areas or facilities where noise may be a concern (e.g., areas with large numbers of dogs or chickens, cage washing equipment).

- r. Personnel who are exposed to 85 decibels or greater (when averaged over an eight hour work day) will need to participate in Cornell's Hearing Conservation Program Consult with EH&S to determine your exposure.

4 Safety

- a. Handling some lab animals poses the risk of zoonosis. Refer to CARE Zoonosis web page.
- b. Proper use of personal protective equipment reduces but does not eliminate the risk of developing allergies. Refer to the Allergens Prevention web page.
- c. Handling animals poses a risk for animal related injury. Refer to SOP 707 Animal Related Injury.
- d. Observe proper hand hygiene as per SOP 713, Hygeine-Hand Washing.

5 References

- a. Zoonosis web page <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/zoonoses.html>
- b. Allergen Prevention <http://www.research.cornell.edu/Care/documents/OHS/AllergyPreventionFactSheet.pdf>
- c. CARE SOP 707 Animal Related Injury <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE707.pdf>
- d. Environmental Health and Safety <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/ochs/rpp.htm> or call EH&S at 255-8200.
- e. CARE SOP 713 Hygeine-Hand Washing: <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/documents/SOPs/CARE713.pdf>

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