Personal protective equipment (PPE) helps to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.

These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, biological, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

- Proper wet laboratories’ attire includes safety glasses and long pants.
- Closed-toed shoes are essential in a laboratory to protect yourself from chemical splashes or broken glass.
- Chemical splash goggles or face shields should be worn when there is a risk of splashing hazardous materials or flying particles.
- Respirators are ONLY to be used when there is the risk of airborne exposure to hazards transmitted by inhalation and containment devices are unavailable or unable to provide sufficient protection. Consult with EH&S to determine if a respirator is required. Respirator users must complete medical clearance through the Medical Surveillance Program and undergo fit-testing and training.
- For infectious agent work, refer to Columbia University’s Biological Safety Manual for appropriate PPE selections.