

# LAB SAFETY AWARENESS


## Personal Protective Equipment and General Lab Attire

**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.



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