

IACUC Guidelines

Personal Hygiene and Attire in Animal Facilities

The *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, 8th Edition*, recommends that each institution conducting animal research establish a high standard of personal hygiene to prevent the spread of disease from animal to animal and from animal to human as well as decrease human exposure to animal allergens.

The following guidelines apply to laboratory animals housed or used on the Purdue University campus within laboratory animal facilities. These guidelines do not apply to agricultural animals housed on farms or to animals cared for by the Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital or to students observing or handling animals as part of a course. However, washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub after handling animals and before eating, applying cosmetics or smoking is always advised.

These guidelines are suggested as a minimum standard for protection and are **not** to limit more stringent requirements for personal protection that may be needed in some animal areas.

- A laboratory coat, or other designated personal protective outerwear to be worn over street clothes, or designated clothing such as surgical scrubs or coveralls should be worn whenever entering an animal housing area or whenever animals are handled.
- Laboratory coats or other designated clothing such as coveralls or surgical scrubs should not be worn outside of the animal facility or laboratory and where possible should be laundered at the animal facility. If laundering at the facility is not possible, placing soiled clothing in a sealed plastic bag for transportation would reduce the exposure to allergens of persons outside of the animal facility. It is IACUC's recommendation that a laundry service be utilized (may indeed be required in certain areas).
- Wearing a dust/vapor mask and latex or nitrile gloves can minimize the risk of development of animal allergies and exposure to zoonotic diseases.
- Personal items such as but not limited to coats, backpacks, and hats should not be taken into animal-housing areas.
- Shoe covers or rubber boots may be needed in areas where animal waste or potential pathogenic organisms may be carried from one animal area to another on foot wear.
- Wash hands with soap and water or decontaminate hands with an alcohol based hand rub after handling animals and before eating, applying cosmetics, or smoking.

Reference:

https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/rem/laboratory/Personal/PPE/ppe_index%20.html

Reference: For Animal Biosafety Level 2 studies, contact REM and IBC for information.

Re-approved by IACUC 6/15/2022