**UPMC Hanover Laboratory**

**Safety and Infection Control**

**Wearing Gloves Training for Laboratory Staff**

**Why should gloves be worn?**

Gloves act as a barrier between infectious materials and your hands. Gloves do not provide protection against needle stick or puncture wounds caused by sharp objects.

Wearing gloves helps prevent the spread of infectious agents and protects both patients and health care workers.

Gloves should be worn when handling chemicals. Check the laboratory safety manual or Safety Data Sheet for the type of gloves that need to be worn.

**When should gloves be worn?**

* When performing laboratory and phlebotomy procedures.
* When there is a chance of coming into contact with potentially infectious materials such as body fluids, mucous membranes or broken skin.
* Gloves must be worn when handling chemicals. Check the laboratory safety manual or Safety Data Sheet for the type of gloves to use. For many chemicals, nitrile are acceptable. This type of glove is in use in the laboratory.

**How should gloves fit?**

Gloves should fit snugly, but not tight enough to restrict movement.

Gloves that are too tight may tear.

Gloves that are too big make it difficult to hold objects and make it easier for your hands to become contaminated with infectious agents.

**What else do I need to know?**

* Nitrile gloves in use in the laboratory and phlebotomy are considered hypoallergenic.
* If you experience an allergic reaction to gloves, follow hospital guidelines for follow up and recommendation for appropriate alternatives.
* Always change gloves if they rip or tear.
* Always remove gloves promptly and discard.
* Always perform hand hygiene after removing gloves. Gloves DO NOT replace the need for hand hygiene.
* Always change gloves between patients.
* Never reuse gloves.
* Never wash or disinfect gloves.

**References:**

UPMC Policy HS-IC0604. OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard Exposure Control Plan. 7/1/2022.

Medline Plus, National Library of Medicine. Wearing gloves in the hospital. 1/18/2022.

FDA, U.S. Food and Drug Admnstration. Medical Gloves. 3/20/20020.