

Environmental Health Laboratories Dress Code Policy

The Environmental Health Laboratories is committed to the personal safety of its employees. It is the responsibility of lab management to ensure that staff are protected from all hazards: physical, biological and chemical. Our overall objective is to avoid personal injury on the job by implementing preventive action to avoid near –misses from exposure to hazards as well as maintaining a professional appearance.

Staff who are employed members of Environmental Health Laboratories are responsible for adhering to this dress code.

Acceptable Attire

Any St. Louis County issued shirt, sweatshirt, hoodie, jacket, or sweater

Slacks, Pants, Khakis, Jeans – ankle length, non-baggy, no holes or rips

Dresses/skirts – tailored, ankle length that are not free flowing but does not restrict movement or dresses/skirts that are not ankle length should be worn with pants underneath that are not leggings, jeggings or spandex material.

Tops, Blouses, Turtlenecks, Sweaters, Collared shirts, T-shirts and Sweatshirts

Medical scrubs (in clinical laboratories only)

Socks – Must be worn with shoes inside lab working area

Shoes/Boots: While working in the lab, non-permeable closed-toe shoes/boots that completely cover the foot.

Examples of Inappropriate Attire

Anything with inappropriate or offensive printing or messages that conflict with the mission of DPH

Exposed Legs – Shorts, Skorts, Capri pants

Beach wear

Halter tops

Workout clothing

Revealing clothing

Spaghetti strap dresses or tops

Attire that exposes the midriff or back

Anything stained, ripped, or torn

Dangling Jewelry (large hoop earrings, long earrings, rings that attach to a bracelet, necklaces outside of a lab coat)

Hair shoulder length or longer should be tied back or styled in a manner that will not pose as a safety hazard when working in the lab.

These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive, but these lists should help set general guidelines for laboratory dress policy. Also refer to DPH Policy 3.9 Employee Appearance Policy

Compliance (Taken from DPH Policy 3.9)

Any employee who is deemed by a supervisor or manager to be inappropriately attired will be asked to return home to change into something more appropriate. He or she will not be paid for this time away from work. All employees of Department of Public Health will comply with the regulations of this policy. Division Directors govern the interpretation of this policy, determining if an employee is out of compliance. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action under the rules of the St. Louis County Civil Service Commission.

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