

## SA 1 Laboratory PPE

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#### Author

Harry Smith/Lisa Lee

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#### Approval and Periodic Review Signatures

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#### Version History

Version	Status	Type	Date Added	Date Effective	Date Retired
1.1	Approved and Current	Minor revision	3/10/2022	3/10/2022	Indefinite
1.0	Retired	First version in Document Control	3/10/2022	3/5/2013	3/10/2022



## Laboratory PPE

The appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must not permit blood or other potentially infectious or hazardous materials to pass through to reach the employee’s work clothes, street clothes, under garments, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes.

All PPE shall be removed prior to leaving the work area and the PPE shall be placed in the appropriately designed area or container for storage, washing, decontamination, or disposal.

PPE must be made available to all Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Service (P&LMS) workers to reduce exposures to hazardous biological, chemical, and (radioactive substances, which are not used in P&LMS). PPE must be readily available and provided at no cost to the employee. It is the responsibility of the VAMC to provide PPE to all employees at no cost to the employee.

All staff members in conjunction with supervisory personnel must be involved with the selection and types of PPE to be used for each job duty and task performed in P&LMS.

All P&LMS personnel must be initially trained before starting job duties in the selection, proper use, limitations, care and maintenance, and proper disposal. Staff will be re-trained if job duties change and/or change departments. An annual review of P&LMS safety plan meets the annual review with employee compliance documentation in VAMC TMS learning modules. Topics for review include: when PPE must be worn; what PPE is necessary to accomplish specific procedures’ how to properly put on, take off, adjust, and wear PPE; proper care, maintenance, useful life, limitations, and proper disposal.

### AREAS OF USE FOR PPE:

#### **Biological Laboratory:**

Laboratory work areas (e.g., Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Blood Bank, phlebotomy area) where routine work and/or manipulation of specimens has the “potential” of accident, splash, or aerosol from fluids containing organisms or agents that result in disease in humans must have select PPE providing protection of the eyes and skin protection.

**Minimum PPE requirements to work in the laboratory include: Latex or vinyl gloves, fluid-resistant lab coat, and enclosed shoes that are fluid resistant. N95 respirator must be added when isolation dictates (e.g., AIDS, TB)**

#### **Pathology and Histology Laboratory:**

Due to the frequent use of open containers of multiple types of chemicals in routine daily operations, the risk of accidental exposure to slashes and fumes from hazardous chemicals is present.

**Minimum PPE requirements to work with potentially hazardous chemicals/reagents in pathology and histology include: Latex or vinyl gloves, chemical-resistant gloves, fluid-resistant lab coat, fully enclosed shoes that are fluid resistant. N95 respirator must be added when isolation dictates (e.g., AIDS, TB)**

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

<b>GLOVES</b>
Disposable gloves shall be worn when it is reasonably anticipated that employees will have contact with blood, body fluids, tissue, or other potentially infectious material, non-intact skin, and/or mucous membranes.



### Laboratory PPE

Gloves will be used for venipuncture, venous access, blood analysis, working around contaminated surfaces or equipment or when there is the potential for exposure to contaminated work surface or equipment.

Gloves must fit snugly over entire hand and pulled over cuff of lab coat. There should be no loose fitting or excess "material" which could interfere with procedure or cause a hazard during handling of specimens or using equipment. Gloves must remain intact and be replaced immediately when torn or contaminated.

Disposable gloves (latex or nitrile) are used one time and must be removed and hands washed or sanitized with waterless hand sanitizer after each patient, when leaving the laboratory area, eating, and taking a break. Disposable gloves are *never* washed, disinfected or re-used.

Task	Location of PPE	Disposal
Venipuncture, specimen collection	All patient rooms, each lab department, storage closet	Non-regulated medical waste
Handling or processing blood, body fluids, or tissue	All laboratory departments	Non-regulated medical waste
QC, maintenance, or troubleshooting instruments or equipment	All laboratory departments	Non-regulated medical waste
Handling or preparation of chemicals or reagents	All laboratory departments	Non-regulated medical waste
Cleaning, touching, or working on or near contaminated or potentially contaminated work surfaces	All laboratory departments	Non-regulated medical waste

#### LAB COAT

Lab jackets (Maytex™) shall be worn when it is reasonably anticipated that employees will have contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, and/or non-intact skin of the employee.

Task	Location of PPE	Disposal
Venipuncture, specimen collection	P&LMS storage closet	Contaminated linen container
Handling or processing blood, body fluids, or tissue	P&LMS storage closet	Contaminated linen container
QC, maintenance, or troubleshooting instruments or equipment	P&LMS storage closet	Contaminated linen container
Handling or preparation of chemicals or reagents	P&LMS storage closet	Contaminated linen container
Cleaning, touching, or working on or near contaminated or potentially contaminated work surfaces	P&LMS storage closet	Contaminated linen container

#### FACE PROTECTION

During venipuncture procedure, additional PPE is determined by isolation precautions for each patient. Full face protection devices may not be necessary if isolation precautions are not present.

An engineering device, full-face shield respiratory, must be worn during autopsy procedures where there is potential of exposure to highly contagious agents.

N95 respiratory should be worn whenever splashes, sprays, or splatter of droplets of blood or other infectious materials may be generated and/or contamination of the eye, nose, or mouth can reasonably be anticipated.

Task	Location of PPE	Disposal
Handling blood, body fluid, or tissue	All laboratory departments	Non-regulated medical waste
Venipuncture, or bedside patient testing	All patient rooms and all lab departments	Non-regulated medical waste
Routine autopsies	Morgue	Non-regulated medical waste
High-risk autopsies	Morgue	Regulated medical waste
Handling or preparing chemicals or reagents	All laboratory departments	Non-regulated medical waste

#### CHEMICAL RESISTANT GLOVES

Splash protection for use when working with caustic acids/alkalis, hazardous chemicals, which could be harmful if splashed on skin or clothing.



### Laboratory PPE

Task	Location of PPE	Disposal
Clean up a chemical spill	Lab storage and histology	General cleaning of this type glove is by washing with water and wiping with clean damp cloth. Contamination with biohazard substance requires cleaning with 10% bleach or other approved cleaner. When no longer in use, decontaminate with approved cleaning solution and dispose in non-regulated medical waste.
Handling or manipulating highly caustic acids/ alkalis	Lab storage and histology	General cleaning is by wiping with clean damp cloth. Contamination with biohazard substance requires cleaning with 10% bleach or other approved cleaner. When no longer in use, decontaminate with approved cleaning solution and dispose in non-regulated medical waste.

SURGICAL GOWN, SHOE COVERS, FULL-FACE PROTECTION, DISPOSABLE FLUID-RESISTANT APRONS		
Surgical gowns, shoe covers, full-face shield, and disposable fluid-resistant aprons must be worn during autopsy where there is high suspicion of contagion present (e.g., HIV, TB, CJD) Racal (HEPA)powered full-face respirator required for known infectious cases.		
Task	Location of PPE	Disposal
High-Risk Autopsy	Storage closet, morgue	Biohazard medical waste

CONTAMINATED WORK SURFACE(S)		
All contaminated work surfaces will be cleaned (decontaminated) at the completion of procedures or testing and immediately, or as soon as possible, after any spill of blood or other potentially infectious material. Laboratory department work surfaces must be cleaned by employee(s) at the end of his/her shift.		
AREA	SCHEDULE	DECON SOLUTION
All contaminated or potentially contaminated work surfaces	Each shift or as needed by lab staff	10% bleach or Dispatch™
All contaminated or potentially contaminated equipment and/or supplies that are disposable	As needed and done by lab staff	10% bleach or Dispatch™
All contaminated or potentially contaminated equipment and/or supplies that are not disposable	End of each shift by lab staff	10% bleach or Dispatch™

**DECONTAMINATION SOLUTIONS:**

1. CDC recommends 10% bleach (sodium hypochlorite) made fresh daily.
2. Dispatch™ is the facility solution of choice

**JOB TITLE PPE REQUIREMENTS**

JOB TITLE	PPE REQUIREMENTS
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST	Gloves (Latex or nitrile)
	Lab Jacket
	N95 respirator (warranted by specific procedure)
MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (Phlebotomists)	Gloves (Latex or nitrile)
	Lab Jacket
	N95 respirator (warranted by specific procedure)
HISTOLOGY TECHNICIAN	Gloves (Latex or nitrile)
	Lab Jacket
	N95 respirator (warranted by specific procedure)



### Laboratory PPE

PATHOLOGIST	Gloves (Latex or nitrile)
	Lab Jacket
	N95 respirator (warranted by specific procedure) or RACAL (HEPA) respirator for infectious cases

All personal protective equipment is supplied and adequate stock maintained by VA Medical Center at no cost to employee.