Visitors and Volunteers in Research and Academic Areas Policy

Policy
Issue Date: 03/08/2016
Revision Date: 07/17/2024

Applies To: This Policy applies to all academic and service units involved in research and academic operations involving hazardous materials and/or equipment. If visitors or volunteers are minors (under 18 years of age), refer to the EHS Policy Minors in Research and Academic Areas. Volunteers for Michigan Medicine clinical spaces must refer to Volunteer Services.

Visitors and Volunteers in Research and Academic Areas Policy

Statement
Unsupervised visitors and volunteers create a risk for injury and increased liability for the University. EHS requires that a responsible person appointed by the Laboratory Director or Department Head supervise all visitors or volunteers when they enter a laboratory/shop/studio to work or for a visit. Departmental policy to this effect will reduce or eliminate the risk of personal injury to visitors/volunteers in research laboratories/shops/studios, and the risk of damage to projects and property.

Observation Only Visits
The individual (non-minor) is not conducting any research or academic activities using hazardous materials or equipment.

Approval Process
Anyone wishing to bring a visitor into an active research facility must follow their department’s approval process.

PPE Requirements
Individuals must be provided with appropriate PPE as needed based on work activity underway in the laboratory/shop/studio. At a minimum, safety glasses, long pants, and closed-toe shoes must be worn in laboratories/shops/studios where chemicals are used or stored. Long hair must be tied back. Lab coats and other PPE (gloves, ear/face/foot protection, and helmets) deemed necessary by the hazards present must be worn even during observation-only visits.

Training
Observation-only visitors must receive a brief discussion of potential hazards that may be encountered in the laboratory/shop/studio during their visit and procedures to follow if there is an emergency. Documentation of training is recommended.
Visitors and Volunteers Performing Research and Academic Activities (Non-Minors) Using Hazardous Materials or Equipment

Approval Process
Anyone wishing to bring a visitor/volunteer into research and academic facilities for the purpose of conducting research or academic activities must:

1. Seek approval from their Department Head.
2. Upon approval and prior to the start of work in the research and academic facility, all individuals must complete the attached U-M Research and Academic Areas Use Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability for Volunteers and Visitors.

PPE Requirements
Individuals must be provided with appropriate PPE as needed based on work activity. At a minimum, safety glasses, gloves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes must be worn in laboratories/shops/studios where chemicals are used or stored. Long hair must be tied back. Lab coats and other PPE (ear/face/foot protection and helmets) deemed necessary by the hazards present must be worn when directly working with chemicals and will be provided at no cost. Visitors/volunteers for shops/studios must follow the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)-General Guideline when there are any potential hazards to the eyes, face, head, feet, hands, or conduct work involving electrical or fall hazards.

Training
EHS General Chemical Laboratory Safety training available through MyLinc must be completed by each individual before beginning work with hazardous materials or equipment.

Additional EHS training courses as deemed necessary. The additional training may include but is not limited to:

- Hazard Communication for Employees Working in Research Support Units, Labs and Shops*
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Centrifuge Training
- Autoclave Standard Operating Procedures
- Laser Safety Basic Training
- Radiation Safety
- X-ray Diffraction
- Shipping Regulations for Infectious Substances
- Shipping Regulations for Shipping with Dry Ice
- Shipping Regulations for Shipping with Chemical Preservatives
- Working Safely with Viral Vectors

*You don’t need to be an employee to take this course.

Site-specific training provided by the Laboratory Director/Supervisor must cover necessary work practices, procedures, and policies to ensure that all individuals are protected from potentially hazardous
chemicals, biological pathogens, and dangerous equipment used in the workplace. Training on emergency procedures must also be included.

**Medical Surveillance**

Medical Surveillance may be a requirement depending on the type of research and academic work activities being conducted. Examples may include respiratory protection clearance, animal handler, or audiograms for noise exposure.

1. Consult with EHS on the need for medical surveillance. Individuals may be required to participate in the university medical surveillance program.
2. Individuals may be requested to show proof of current medical surveillance from another entity.

**Recordkeeping**

1. All Training must be documented and maintained in the research and academic facility with the EHS document binder.
2. Records of the approval and waiver forms must be maintained by the research and academic facility for at least one year.

**Emergency Procedures for Observers and Those Performing Research and Academic Activities**

All near misses, injuries, accidents, and illnesses must be reported. Appropriate medical treatment may be necessary. Determine what must be done for each visitor/volunteer and ensure all responsible persons are aware of the procedures.

All incidents that result in injury or illnesses must be reported to Risk Management by filling out their [Injury Report](#) as well as the EHS [Incident and Near Miss Form](#).

Visitors/volunteers should be referred to their physician or the nearest emergency center depending on the nature of their issue.
Appendix A: Related Documents

- U-M Standard Practice Guide (SPG) 605.01 - Safety, Health and Environmental Policy
- U-M Volunteer Guidelines
- U-M Lab Use Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability for Volunteers and Visitors (non-minors)
- EHS Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)-General Guideline
- University of Michigan Academic Laboratory and Research Safety Policy
- U-M Chemical Hygiene Plan
Appendix B: Roles and Responsibilities

Everyone working at the University of Michigan has the right to expect a safe and healthy work environment. They also have a responsibility to help ensure a safe and healthy environment for themselves and others. These responsibilities are detailed in the University of Michigan Academic Laboratory and Research Safety Policy, issued jointly by the Department of Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) and the Office of Research Ethics & Compliance (UMOR). Please click on the Policy link to view role-specific responsibilities including but not limited to the following categories:

- All faculty, staff, other employees, and students
- Graduate Student Research Assistants/Trainees
- Post-Doctoral Trainees/Fellows
- Laboratory Director (Faculty/Lab Manager/Supervisor)
- Department Chair
- Facility Managers/Department Managers/Key Administrators/Chief Department Administrators
- Unit (School/College/Department) Safety Coordinators

Deans, Directors, and Department Heads

- Review and approve requests, if appropriate, for visitors and volunteers working and observing in U-M Research and Academic Facilities.

Laboratory/Shop/Studio Director

- Follow and Implement procedures in accordance with this Policy to obtain approvals as required for visitors and volunteers and maintain documentation of approvals.
- Provide ongoing supervision of all visitors and volunteers. Designate a qualified laboratory/shop/studio supervisor and an alternate supervisor, if necessary.
- Ensure visitors and volunteers receive training and maintain documentation of the training.
- Ensure visitors and volunteers are provided with PPE as required for their work.
- Implement and document appropriate safety policies and procedures in accordance with the U-M Chemical Hygiene Plan.
- Ensure that adequate facilities, ventilation, and equipment are provided for the safe use of hazardous materials, and for the appropriate disposal of hazardous waste.
- Ensure employees are instructed on and follow proper procedures and utilize protective equipment provided during their work as detailed in written SOPs.
- Contact EHS to request training and technical assistance, and to evaluate health and safety concerns within their unit.

EHS

- Provide technical assistance to research and academic operations regarding allowing visitors and volunteers into research and academic areas.
- Prepare and provide access to training tools for research and academic operations.

Visitors and Volunteers

Issue Date: 03/08/2016
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# Glossary of Terms

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<th>TERM</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Hygiene Plan</td>
<td>U-M Chemical Hygiene Plan is a written program that applies to all research, teaching, student, and other laboratories at U-M covered by the MIOSHA Hazardous Work in Laboratories Standard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department Head</td>
<td>This individual holds authority over a Principal Investigator or other researchers and is in a position to review requests for visits. This raises the approval level beyond the individual lab or research and academic facility.</td>
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<td>Laboratory Director</td>
<td>The person with the highest level of authority within the laboratory or academic area. In research labs, this is typically the Principal Investigator (PI).</td>
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<td>PPE</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
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<td>Research Facility</td>
<td>Includes any space within a U-M building where clinical, research, production or laboratory support operations are conducted. This includes space where research animals are housed or supported.</td>
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<td>Responsible Person</td>
<td>Any person approved by a Lab Director or Department Head to oversee and/or supervise the activities of a visitor/volunteer while in the research and academic facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer or Visitor</td>
<td>Any person entering a research and academic facility or laboratory on campus for a tour or non-compensated work-related purpose.</td>
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## Revision History

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