

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 03-001	
Subject: LABORATORY ATTIRE	Effective Date: 03/01/2008 Review Date: 08/17/2026	Page 1 of 1

PROPER ATTIRE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN LABORATORIES

1. All employees, faculty, students, and visitors must wear appropriate attire in all laboratory areas to eliminate or minimize contact with chemicals, biological hazards, and other hazards.
 - 1.1. Shorts, miniskirts, or any apparel that does not cover the skin above the knee when seated should NOT be worn in the laboratory.
 - 1.2. Open-toed or open-backed shoes, sandals, or shoes made of loosely woven material should not be worn in the laboratory.
 - 1.3. Loose clothing and jewelry that can be caught in equipment or contact hazardous solutions should not be worn in the laboratory.
 - 1.4. Long hair must be tied back or otherwise secured; loose facial hair must be contained or trimmed in situations where hair could contact hazardous chemicals, biological materials or moving machinery parts.
2. Gloves should be worn whenever there is a potential exposure to the hands. The gloves should have the necessary resistance to the chemical or hazardous material being used. Liquid barrier gloves should be used when handling biological agents or potentially infectious materials. See the University guideline EH&S #01-011, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for more information.
3. Face and eye protection should be worn during any task where there is potential exposure of the eyes via splashing of chemicals, biological materials or generation of flying objects. Eye protection may be required for laboratory entry at the discretion of the investigator or department.
4. Per OSHA and the BMBL, lab coats should be worn in laboratory spaces where hazardous materials (biological and chemical) are handled. Lab coats should not be laundered at home; a University approved laundry service should be used.
5. Specialized protective clothing shall be worn when using materials that are extremely hazardous upon contact. EH&S should be consulted. See the University guideline EH&S #01-011, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for more information.
6. Gloves should be removed prior to use of the telephone, keyboard, equipment controls or doors, if these surfaces are considered "clean" or common.
7. Personal protective equipment (gloves, lab coats, etc.) must never be worn outside of laboratory areas and is forbidden in public corridors, elevators, stairwells, and break rooms.