



**Florida State University
Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC)**

Standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use in Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) Maintained Facilities

In accordance with the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, PPE appropriate for the work environment, including clean institution-issued protective clothing, should be provided as often as necessary. Consistent with Guide recommendations, the Florida State University Animal Care and Use Committee establishes the following standards for PPE use in University vivaria.

LAR will provide PPE to individuals based on scope of work. PPE provided to LAR personnel may include disposable outerwear, dedicated uniforms, eye and face protection, hearing protection, respiratory protection, gloves, and footwear. PPE provided to research personnel may include disposable outerwear, eye and face protection, gloves, and shoe covers. If respiratory protection is required, individuals must complete a respirator medical evaluation and undergo fit testing prior to use.

Closed-toed shoes must be worn at all times within LAR-maintained facilities. Personnel must adhere to all posted PPE requirements. Personnel are required to wear a LAR-provided disposable gown and gloves if live animals, cages, caging components, carcasses, or soiled bedding are manipulated. Personnel are required to change PPE between animal holding rooms of differing health status. Change of PPE between animal holding rooms of the same health status is not required. Disposable gowns are designated for single use only and must be discarded and not stored for repeat use.

Personal protective equipment is not required for personnel entering animal holding rooms where hazards are not present **AND** all animals are housed in either static microisolator or individually ventilated caging to perform animal observations only. **If live animals, cages, caging components, carcasses, or soiled bedding are manipulated, PPE must be worn. To prevent exposure to laboratory animal allergens, use of an N-95 respirator is recommended when entering rooms or working with rodents housed in open-top caging. Research personnel will be responsible for purchase of N-95 respirators. LAR will provide N-95 respirators for LAR personnel. Additional information/training regarding laboratory animal allergens will be provided to individuals working with rodents housed in open-top caging.**

Individuals performing perfusions, injections or treatments using various hazardous agents in the vivarium, are required to wear alternative disposable gowns that are effective against hazardous agents or equivalent gowns. The alternative disposable gowns will be made available at locations where these activities are being performed.

To prevent contamination of FSU animal colonies, use of non-disposable laboratory coats is prohibited.

PPE donning stations will be located throughout LAR facilities. PPE should not be worn beyond the boundary of the animal facility. Signage regarding PPE standards will be prominently posted.

Investigators wishing to request an exemption to the PPE standards described above must provide written justification to the ACUC. All exemptions to PPE standards must be reviewed and approved by the ACUC prior to implementation. PPE requirements for non-mammalian species and for studies involving hazardous materials will be determined by Environment Health and Safety in consultation with LAR.

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