Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Animal Facilities

**Personal protective equipment** (PPE) is to be worn inside animal facilities to protect personnel from allergens and biological hazards, as well as to reduce the potential of introducing animal pathogens into the facility. Appropriate use of PPE is an important part of the University’s Occupational Health and Safety Program as required by Federal regulations and accrediting agencies. Please refer to the LACU’s PPE policy for the PPE requirements for entering rooms where your animals are housed. PPE should be changed when soiled or contaminated, and removed before leaving the animal facility.

*Once personal protective equipment (PPE) has been worn in animal facilities it is considered contaminated and should not be worn outside those facilities.*

Personnel who wear PPE in public areas often touch doorknobs, elevator buttons and other surfaces with gloved hands. Others touch those same surfaces may thus be unwittingly and unnecessarily exposed to potential hazards. Exiting or re-entering animal facilities while wearing PPE is a breach of occupational health policy and OSHA guidelines.

Sandals and open-toed shoes are not permitted in the animal facilities. PPE should not be worn when transporting animals to and from the animal care facilities through public areas. When transporting animals between the animal facility and laboratories, transport containers should be decontaminated and covered appropriately.

It is each investigator’s responsibility to ensure that their laboratory staff are informed and trained in the appropriate use of PPE. Please keep the workplace free of materials that are potential health hazards. This ensures the health of the animals and all those involved in animal related research.

For the protection of everyone and of the research animals, The Laboratory Animal Care Unit will restrict the access to animal care facilities by those who do not adhere to appropriate use of PPE.

If you have any questions regarding the appropriate use of PPE, please contact Evelyn Lewis, Occupational Health Coordinator, at 448-5630, Ramesh Ray, Institutional Biosafety Officer, at 448-2054, or Dr. David Hamilton, Interim Director, Laboratory Animal Care Unit, at 448-5656.