PPE & Proper Lab Attire

What do you use to protect yourself from hazards and risks within laboratory settings? What is personal protective equipment? Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as "PPE", is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. PPE may include items such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hard hats, respirators, or coveralls, vests, and full body suits. PPE(s) should be maintained in a clean and reliable fashion and should fit comfortably, encouraging worker and student use while in a lab.

It is recommended to wear safely designed and constructed personal protective equipment while in laboratory settings. If the personal protective equipment does not fit properly, it can make the difference between being safely covered or dangerously exposed. Supervisors are also required to train each worker required to use personal protective equipment to know:

- When it is necessary
- What type is necessary
- How to properly put it on, adjust, wear, and take it off
- Any limitations of the equipment
- Proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the equipment

Proper Laboratory Attire

Wearing appropriate attire to the laboratory is also important. Make sure to wear long pants that cover the ankles, closed toed shoes that cover the top of your feet, and a shirt with sleeves. Keep an extra pair of long pants or closed toed shoes in your car so you always have proper attire even in the nice weather, where you may tend to leave the house in shorts, skirts, dresses, or sandals.

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For questions or concerns please call DEHS at 852-6670 or email dehsubm@louisville.edu