Safety Bulletin

March 2016

Environmental Health & Safety

What's Inside

Minors and Visiting Students in Labs

If you plan to have a minor or visiting student who will visit or work in your lab this year, you must submit an application prior to the individual's arrival. Before the minor or visiting student may work in your lab, the application must be approved and any required safety training must be completed.

- Application for Student Minors to Enter Yale Laboratories Form
- Parental Consent Form and Liability Waiver (for participants under the age of 18)
- Application for Visiting Students in Research Form

Federal and state regulations cover the presence of minors and visiting students in the laboratory. The University has also developed policies regarding minors and visiting students in labs to assure compliance, address safety concerns and optimize the research experience.

Minors (youths ages 12-17) in labs

Under these policies, youths ages 12-17 may enter a Yale research laboratory for a one-time educational or recruitment purpose. Tours must be conducted with permission of the faculty member responsible for the laboratory and the Department Chair or his/her designee. The faculty member will be responsible for proper supervision and for providing any appropriate personal protective equipment for the visiting student. Tours must be supervised at all times while on the premises and tour participants may not participate in any laboratory activities. Children under 12 years of age are prohibited from entering laboratory areas under all circumstances. Minor students ages 16-18 may work in a Yale research laboratory as part of an educational program approved by the Dean or Department Chair of the school and Environmental Health and Safety.

Policy

No minors or visiting students may work in a Yale laboratory unless they are part of an approved program.

- Read the policy governing Minors in Yale Laboratories

Visiting students in labs

Undergraduate students 18 years of age or older who are currently enrolled in an accredited degree-granting institution other than Yale may apply to enter a Yale laboratory as part of an educational research experience under the mentorship of a Yale faculty member.

- Read the policy governing Visiting Students in Research in Yale Laboratories

All minors and visiting students must complete the required safety trainings and adhere to all restrictions set forth by Environmental Health and Safety. No minors or visiting students may work in a Yale laboratory unless they are part of an approved program. If you have any questions or concerns, please email ehs@yale.edu.

Programs for Children and Youth

Yale Programs for Children and Youth provide an opportunity for students in the New Haven community and beyond to visit the Yale campus and learn from dedicated volunteers in areas ranging from science and research to athletics.

Students from local high schools, New Haven groups as well as larger student groups such as EXPLO at Yale often visit the campus to further their education. Visits may take place in a laboratory where students are mentored by Yale researchers or they may visit a museum to get a first-hand look at some of the historic artifacts the University has acquired.

Because safety is the top priority when these visitors of all ages come to campus, the University has created a Committee on Programs for Children and Youth, which reviews and approves programs and provides guidance on health and safety issues, insurance, legal compliance and other concerns prior to a program's arrival. A subommittee meets weekly to review applications and includes representatives from the Office of New Haven and State Affairs, Environmental Health and Safety and the Office of the General Counsel.

Members of the Yale community who, in their Yale capacity, wish to organize a program, other than a field trip, must register their program no fewer than 60 days before the program is scheduled to begin by submitting a Program Registration Form. Continuing programs must re-register annually.

In some cases, background checks of employees and volunteers who will be involved in the program are also required prior to approval. All organizers and program staff members must complete Yale's training on Health and Safety of Children and Youth and the Connecticut Department of Children and Families' training on Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect.

Yale faculty, students and staff members seeking guidance in engaging with local pre-college students can contact the Yale Pathways to Science Manager at maria.parente@yale.edu. Pathways coordinates STEM outreach and helps Yale researchers respond effectively to the National Science Foundation or other funding agencies' broader impacts criteria. For more information, visit programs-minors.yale.edu.

Connecticut Vulnerable User Law

The Connecticut Vulnerable User Law went into effect October 1, 2014 and you should be aware of the additional penalties for drivers in Connecticut who cause death or serious physical injury to a vulnerable user.

The Connecticut Vulnerable User Law, Public Act 14-31, requires a fine be imposed on reckless motor vehicle drivers who cause death or serious physical injury to a "vulnerable user of a public way" so long as the vulnerable user was shown to be using reasonable care.
A vulnerable user is defined as any of the following:

- A pedestrian
- A highway worker
- A person riding or driving an animal
- A person riding a bicycle
- A person using a skateboard, roller skates or in-line skates
- A person operating or riding on an agricultural tractor
- A person using a wheelchair or motorized chair
- A blind person and such person's service animal

A public way includes any state or other public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state or any political subdivision of the state, which is dedicated, appropriated or opened to public travel or other use.

Any operator of a motor vehicle on a public way who fails to exercise reasonable care and causes the death or serious physical injury of a vulnerable user of a public way, provided the vulnerable user has shown reasonable care in their use of the public way, will be fined up to $1,000.

EHS Staff Meet with FBI About Explosive Devices

Environmental Health and Safety emergency response team members recently met with FBI explosive experts to learn more about the threats from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), or explosives created in an improvised manner with chemicals and other materials that are readily available to the public.

Special Agent Sam DiPasquale, a New Haven FBI bomb technician, and Officer Joe Tempesta, a Yale University police officer and member of the New Haven regional bomb squad, spoke to the group about different types and levels of explosives as well as the range of chemicals and fuels that can be used to create an improvised explosive device. Many of these products are commercially-produced chemicals with legitimate uses, but can be dangerous if used incorrectly. The Department of Homeland Security has compiled a list of what it considers "Chemicals of Interest."

DiPasquale told the group that they "count on their partnerships with local entities because they can't be everywhere" and to trust their instincts if they believe something doesn't look right. This includes keeping records of your inventory and incoming shipments to ensure no chemicals are missing, being mindful of those who are entering your lab space and their reason for being there and reporting any suspicious activity.

EHS staff attends trainings throughout the year to be prepared for all hazard emergency response situations in order to keep the Yale community as safe as possible.

Office of Environmental Health & Safety
135 College Street, Suite 100, New Haven, CT 06510
Telephone: 203-785-3550 / Fax: 203-785-7588
ehs.yale.edu
Director: Peter Reinhardt
Editor: Dan Champagne

"Do not think because an accident hasn't happened to you that it can't happen." - Author unknown

Harvard-Yale Team Up for Science and Safety Symposium

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL | Yale

The Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) from Harvard and Yale have partnered with the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research to create an opportunity for education and discussion on CRISPR/Cas9 technology, a gene-editing technique that can target and modify DNA with extreme accuracy.

The Harvard-Yale Science and Safety Symposium will be held May 3-4 at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School and will bring together a wide range of biosafety professionals, research overseers, risk managers and principal investigators.

"This topic was selected very early in the discussion of creating a shared IBC educational event in New England as it was the most pressing subject facing biosafety professionals due to the permanency of the genetic changes made," said Ben Fontes, Yale University's Biosafety Officer. The technology is also applicable in a vast array of research settings and CRISPR/Cas9's boundaries have not yet been established.

Harvard and Yale were among the first institutions with IBCs in New England and this partnership continues the commitment of both institutions for sharing pertinent information with our colleagues. Partha Krishnan and Kimberly Heard from Yale EHS have also assisted with the program by serving on the Scientific Program Committee for the event.

This symposium will provide attendees with an improved understanding of the technology and a framework for management of CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing research involving RNA guided Gene Drives, clinical applications and conventional laboratory research.

It will include keynote lectures from leaders in the field along with presentations on the topic that balance science, safety and policy. Attendees will hear from leading scientists and their International Biosafety Committees and Biosafety representatives who will discuss how risks associated with this technology have been addressed at their institutions.

For more information or to register for the event, visit harvardyalesymposium.com.