

Be Cool Even in the Heat; Wear Your PPE

As the warm weather approaches, it is crucial to remember that the requirements for proper lab attire remain unchanged regardless of the season. Ensuring your safety and the safety of those around you in the laboratory is of utmost importance.

Closed-Toe, Solid Top Shoes: Sandals, flip-flops, and other open-toed footwear are not allowed in the lab. Protect your feet from potential spills and dropped objects by wearing closed-toe, solid top shoes at all times.

Long Pants: Shorts and skirts or dresses that do not fully cover the legs are not permitted. Long pants, or other clothing that extends to the ankle, must be worn to protect your legs from potential chemical splashes and other hazards.

Safety Glasses, Lab Coats &

Gloves: Even on the hottest days, working in the laboratory requires personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn. PPE provides an essential barrier between you and hazardous substances. [Requirements can be found in the Laboratory PPE Procedure.](#)

Minimal Jewelry and Loose

Clothing: Avoid wearing jewelry or loose-fitting clothing that could become caught in equipment or come into contact with chemicals or other hazardous materials.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can maintain a safe and productive work environment. If you have any questions or need further information on proper lab attire, please consult your lab supervisor or contact your [Safety Advisor.](#)



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Minors & Visiting Undergraduates Participating in Research or Clinical Activities

If you plan to have a minor or visiting undergraduate participate in research or clinical activities on campus or remotely, please complete the appropriate application through [EHS Integrator.](#)

Applications must be submitted and authorized prior to the student's participation in any research or clinical activities. Applications will not be authorized until all training and laboratory compliance issues have been completed.

The application process includes an integration with the Sponsored Identity system. You will enter the student's demographic information in EHS Integrator and your business office will approve the SI request in Sponsored Identity.

As principal investigator, you have responsibility for activities of staff and students in your lab or workspace. It is critical that you review and are in agreement with the information provided in the EHS registration. You will receive an automated email with instructions for approving the EHS registration.

Instructional help guides and a list of Frequently Asked Questions have been revised to help you with the application process:

- [Help Guide-Minors](#)
- [Help Guide-Visiting Undergraduates](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

University policies:

- [Minors Participating in Research or Clinical Activities Policy](#)
- [Visiting Undergraduates Participating in Research or Clinical Activities Policy](#)
- [Minor Parental Consent Form](#)

For assistance with completing or gaining access to the online application or if you have any questions or concerns regarding minors and visiting undergraduates, please email ehsintegrator@yale.edu or call 203-737-2122.

A Little Label Makes a Big Difference



Proper container labeling is an essential aspect of maintaining an efficient and safe working environment. On the other hand, once a container becomes an "unknown," it poses significant issues. Failing to label containers can lead to:

- **Risky Situations:** Handling or disposing of unknown substances can pose significant risks to researchers and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) staff.
- **Time-Consuming:** Disposing of unknown substances can consume significant time for both the researchers and EHS staff, which can be better spent on productive research activities.
- **Increased Costs:** The university bears financial costs due to the special handling and disposal fees of unknown substances. Proper labeling mitigates these unnecessary expenses.

Proper labeling is not just about protecting yourself and fellow researchers; it's about safeguarding everyone in the vicinity, including students, faculty and staff, visitors, and first responders.

It is impossible to know and follow the proper storage, segregation, personal protective equipment (PPE), handling, disposal, and emergency procedures for a chemical you cannot identify.

If you encounter a container and you do not know what it contains:

- 1) Ask lab members (past and present) about the unknown container.
- 2) **NEVER** waft/smell, inhale, or taste any chemical.
- 3) Inspect (without disturbing) the container, cap, and contents for crystallization, discoloration, fogginess, or other abnormal conditions.
- 4) Finally, if it cannot be identified, [request a chemical waste pick-up](#) for proper disposal by EHS and include any relevant information you can gather to assist Environmental Affairs when they attempt to identify/classify the waste.

Labeling containers appropriately is a simple yet highly effective way to maintain a safe and compliant laboratory environment. It prevents dangerous situations, reduces costs, saves time, and protects everyone on campus.

Yale's Commitment to Lab Safety: The Working Alone Policy

In December 2022, Yale University established the [Working Alone in Laboratories Policy](#) to set clear standards for reducing the risks associated with working alone in research settings. Recognizing the potential hazards when researchers may be unable to summon emergency assistance, this policy achieves several critical objectives:

- **University-Wide Standards:** The policy sets comprehensive standards for solitary work in laboratories across the university.
- **Encouragement of Stricter Protocols:** Principal investigators (PIs) are both authorized and encouraged to implement more stringent protocols tailored to their specific laboratory environments.
- **Defined Roles and Responsibilities:** The policy delineates the roles and responsibilities essential to meeting its safety requirements.

This policy is applicable to all individuals engaged in research activities within any Yale University laboratory.

PIs are required to develop customized protocols that address the particular needs and risks inherent to their laboratories. To do this, they must use the [Working Alone Protocol](#) in EHS Integrator. This tool helps PIs specify whether working alone is permitted in their labs and outline any hazardous materials or equipment involved. If your laboratory has not yet completed the [Working Alone Protocol](#) in EHS Integrator, please prioritize doing so. Detailed guidance for this process can be found in the [Procedures for Principal Investigators for Establishing Working Alone Protocols for Their Laboratories](#). Before completing the protocol in EHS Integrator, make sure to review the list of prohibited materials and activities found in [Appendix A](#) of the policy.

By adhering to these procedures, PIs can ensure that safety protocols are adapted to the specific conditions of their laboratories, thereby promoting a safer and more conscientious research environment.