

## World Hand Hygiene Day

World Hand Hygiene Day is observed annually on May 5<sup>th</sup> and serves as a reminder that clean hands are one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent the spread of infections. Led by the World Health Organization's (WHO) *SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands* campaign, the day encourages healthcare and laboratory professionals to reinforce good hand hygiene practices in their daily work. In laboratory settings, taking a moment to wash or sanitize your hands—especially after removing gloves, handling specimens, or before leaving the lab—helps prevent cross-contamination and supports a safer environment for everyone. It is also important to remember that gloves do not replace hand hygiene and hands should be cleaned before and after glove use.

Learn more:

- [WHO World Hand Hygiene Day](#)
- [CDC Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#)



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## Science Hill Receiving Changes: What Labs Need to Know

Significant changes are coming to how materials are received and delivered on Science Hill as part of the [Upper Science Hill Development](#) (USHD) and Science Hill [READY](#) initiatives. These projects support new construction, decarbonization, and long-term safety and infrastructure improvements across Science Hill.

### WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

The Bass loading dock will permanently close to support construction of the Physical Sciences and Engineering Building (PSEB) and related USHD projects. At the same time, Science Hill READY efforts are modernizing utilities and improving safety and operational efficiency across laboratory buildings. To maintain continuity of service and strengthen chemical safety, Transportation, Receiving & Storage (TR&S), Facilities, Procurement, the Office of the Provost for Research, and EHS have partnered on a new receiving model.

### WHAT IS CHANGING?

As of Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, deliveries previously received at the Bass loading dock will be redirected to the [Southwest Service Node](#) (SWSN) at 41 Sachem Street (below Kroon Hall). The Bass loading dock will close on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. TR&S will staff the SWSN and deliver all non-chemical packages.

### CHEMICAL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DELIVERIES

All chemical orders previously destined for Bass will now be received at the Chemical Safety Building (CSB) at 295 Prospect Street, where they will be inventoried and barcoded before TR&S delivers them to labs. SciQuest will prompt redirection of chemical purchases to CSB, including controlled substances. Non-chemical items will continue to be shipped to SWSN.

### RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Radioactive materials should be shipped to the SWSN. TR&S will coordinate delivery to labs in accordance with EHS requirements and established radioactive material receiving procedures.

### WHAT LABS NEED TO DO

Labs should continue ordering supplies as usual in SciQuest. Additional instructions and transition timelines will be communicated ahead of May 20<sup>th</sup>. Oversized or palletized deliveries may still require coordination, similar to current Bass operations.

# 2026 Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) Updates

Yale EHS has published an updated [Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Plan \(CHP\)](#), revised February 2026. The [CHP](#) remains the University's framework for meeting OSHA's [Laboratory Standard](#) and sets expectations for working safely with hazardous chemicals.

## 1) Training is now clearly anchored in Workday Learning (with a defined cadence).

The 2026 [CHP](#) states that laboratory personnel must complete the *Laboratory Safety* training in Workday Learning before working with hazardous chemicals and **every three years thereafter**.

## 2) Risk assessment and PPE expectations are more explicit.

The updated [CHP](#) emphasizes using the Laboratory Hazard Assessment Tool (LHAT) to determine task-specific PPE and explicitly ties completion to EHS Integrator (including a direct reference to the LHAT link). It also lays out a clearer risk assessment structure (identify hazards, select controls, plan for emergencies, and reassess when procedures or conditions change).

## 3) "Working alone" guidance is strengthened for high-hazard work.

The 2026 [CHP](#) reiterates the need to avoid working alone and adds more specific expectations for notifications and check-ins, while clearly stating that working alone is not permitted for high-hazard operations or with highly hazardous chemicals.

## 4) Respiratory protection language adds a Workday requirement for voluntary users.

The voluntary use of respirators is clarified under the Respiratory Protection Program and voluntary users must complete the Workday Learning course "*Voluntary Use of Respirators*."

## 5) Emergency response content is expanded (including phenol).

A notable addition is a dedicated [phenol](#) exposure response section, including guidance on the use of polyethylene glycol (PEG) 300/400 when dermal contact has occurred.

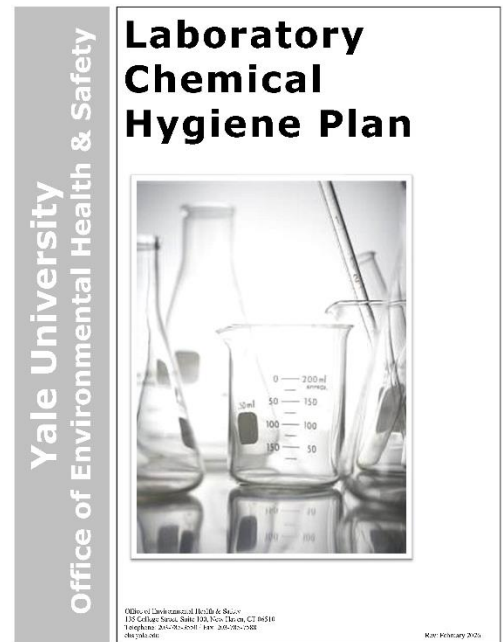
## 6) DHS/CFATS context is updated, while EHS controls continue.

The 2026 [CHP](#) notes that the [Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards \(CFATS\) statutory authority have expired](#), but states EHS will continue to track these chemicals and that handling procedures should still be followed.

Please review the updated [CHP](#), confirm your Workday training status, and ensure your [LHAT/PPE assessments](#) and procedure risk reviews reflect current work.

## 7) Inclusion of Additional Lab Groups

Clinical and conservation laboratory staff are now included under the [CHP](#), as their chemical use more closely aligns with research laboratory operations. Please review the updated [CHP](#), confirm your Workday training status, and ensure your LHAT/PPE assessments and procedure risk reviews reflect current work.



# Lentiviral and Retroviral Vector Exposure Risks

A recent publication on the risks posed by researchers handling replication defective (or competent) lentiviral and retroviral vectors makes a compelling argument for the provision of HIV post-exposure prophylaxis for high-risk exposures to these vectors. (1) The article by Dr. Gary Fujimoto et al., published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, was an update of a prior article on the same topic (2), but has updated the drug regimen recommendations. The articles continue to stress the importance of recognizing the oncogenic risks posed by these vectors following exposure through vector integration and insertional mutagenesis.

For high-risk exposures, such as percutaneous or mucous membrane exposures to lentiviral and retroviral vectors, the authors are recommending post-exposure prophylaxis consisting of “1) dolutegravir 50 mg taken once a day for 7 days and 2) tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg taken once a day for 7 days.” (1). The authors recommend 28 days if the vectors were replication competent. (1)

The article also talks about ensuring that the principal investigator is aware of these risks, that individuals are trained and experienced in the lab’s procedures and the corresponding safe working practices when working with these defective viral vectors. The Yale Biological Safety Committee provides risk statements regarding lentiviral vectors on Yale’s registration form for research involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, along with a statement alerting of the risks of insertional mutagenesis and oncogenic risk when handling these vectors. Yale EHS provides sample standard operating procedures (SOPs) (3) on the Yale EHS website for use to develop site-specific biosafety measures. Yale EHS has also created BSL-2 enhanced online work practices training that all researchers handling replication defective lentiviruses are strongly encouraged to complete. (4)

The final take home message from the article was to remind all researchers working with replication defective lentiviral or retroviral vectors of the importance of immediately washing percutaneous exposures with soap and water for 15 minutes or using the eye wash for 15 minutes following any exposures to the facial mucous membranes. Researchers are asked to contact Yale Health Occupational Health at 203-432-7978 and/or Yale Acute Care at 203-432-0123 within two hours after any exposures to start the medical health consult at 55 Lock Street. Researchers and support personnel in the Medical School area may also go to Yale New Haven Hospital’s (YNHH) Occupational Health Services, East Pavillion 1-Room 40 (behind the cafeteria) Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM (203-688-2462), or the YNHH Emergency Department after hours (203-688-2222). Yale University’s Biosafety Manual and website have emergency response procedures available (5 and 6), and each lab working with biohazards has emergency response posters located in prominent locations within each laboratory. Please follow these important instructions for reducing the risk immediately following any exposure incident. Do not forget to call the University’s worker compensation group, CorVel, at 833-400-7222, after you have had your medical evaluation.

- (1) Fujimoto G.R., Wooley D.P., Byers K.B., et al., “Update on managing the risks of exposure to lentiviral and retroviral vectors,” *J Occup Environ Med* 2024, 66: 818-825.
- (2) Schlimgen R., Howard J., Wooley D., et al.. “Risks associated with lentiviral vector exposures and prevention strategies. *J. Occup Environ Med* 2016, 58: 1159-1156.
- (3) BSL-2+ Work Practices <https://ehs.yale.edu/biological-policies-procedures>
- (4) BSL-2+ Training. Biosafety Work Practices for Cell Culture: BSL-2 and BSL-2-Enhanced-Web-Based (FL-EHS-015) <https://ehs.yale.edu/biological-policies-procedures>
- (5) Yale EHS Emergency Procedures <https://ehs.yale.edu/emergency-procedures>
- (6) Yale Exposure Response Card <https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/incident-exposure-card-english.pdf>

# Reproductive Pathogen Fact Sheets

Your reproductive health matters—especially when your work brings you into contact with biological agents. Environmental Health and Safety, together with Occupational Health, has prepared a set of clear, [reproductive pathogen fact sheets](#) that describe reproductive hazards associated with certain pathogens that may be present in Yale laboratories or animal housing rooms. These materials were written to help you understand the kinds of risks that can arise, who might be most affected, and what steps you can take to reduce exposure.

Exposure to some pathogens can have serious consequences for fetal development and survival, for the health of a pregnant person, and for future fertility in people of any sex. That risk is not only medical, but personal. Decisions about family planning, pregnancy care, and workplace assignments are best made with full information. The [fact sheets](#) summarize the evidence and highlight situations where extra precautions—and conversations with a healthcare provider—are strongly recommended. Please take a few minutes to review the fact sheets most relevant to your work, and take practical steps to protect yourself and others:

- Review the [fact sheet\(s\)](#) that apply to agents used or stored in your lab or animal space.
- Confirm that your work area's inventories, signage, and SOPs reflect the hazards described.
- Use the recommended engineering controls, PPE, and safe-work practices without exception.
- Discuss concerns with your supervisor and with Occupational Health before making decisions about work assignments during pregnancy or when planning a pregnancy.
- Report incidents or potential exposures promptly and seek medical advice tailored to your situation.

If you have questions about the [fact sheets](#) or need help interpreting how they apply to your specific duties, contact Environmental Health and Safety at 203-785-3550 or Occupational Health at 203-432-7978. For personal medical guidance, consult a qualified healthcare professional. Taking these steps will help keep you, your colleagues, and future families safe while you do important work.

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## Minors and 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](mailto:ehsintegrator@yale.edu) or call 203-737-2122.