Laboratory Exercise: LABORATORY SAFETY

In many of the laboratory exercises that we will be performing throughout the course, you will get the opportunity to use tools, equipment and specimens that will provide you with valuable hands-on application of many anatomical structures and physiological processes of the human body. As a beginning biology student, it is very important that you understand the equipment and tools you will be using and maintain the safety procedures required in the laboratory setting for your own personal safety, as well as, the safety of the others.

Prior to arriving to a scheduled lab, it is your responsibility to read through all lab activities in order to ensure that you are prepared. Students who have are familiar with laboratory activities increase their success and understanding of the procedures. Students who are unfamiliar with the material are a danger to themselves and others. In addition, at the beginning of each laboratory meeting, your instructor will review specific lab safety rules before you begin any activities. *If you do not understand any safety procedure, at any time, you should always ask your instructor for clarification.*

The following is a list of Laboratory Safety Rules that you should become familiar with. Any student who fails to follow the Laboratory Safety Rules creates an unsafe environment. Students who do not follow these guidelines will not be allowed to participate in the activity.

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**Lab Safety**  As you read through each lab activity, any Lab Safety precaution will be designated for easy identification. Make sure to ask your instructor for clarification on any Safety Procedure before beginning that part of your lab activity.

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1. Always dress appropriately for the scheduled activity. Never wear clothing that, if damaged, would be a serious loss.
   a. Students are required to wear shows that cover their entire foot. No sandals, flip-flops, etc.
   b. Students should wear tops and bottoms that cover their skin. Clothes provide a protective barrier.
   c. **Any student who does not dress appropriately for lab will not be allowed to participate in any of the scheduled lab activities.**

2. Wear Safety Goggles as indicated in the lab procedure. Some of the reagents (liquids) used in experiments or to preserve dissection specimens can create hazards to your eyes and/or contact lenses.

3. Wear nonlatex gloves as indicated in the lab procedure.

4. Always assume reagents are poisonous and act accordingly. When any reagent comes into contact with your skin, go to the sink and wash immediately with soap and water. Read the labels and listen carefully to instructions on their use.
a. If chemicals are spilled in the lab it is important that they be cleaned up immediately. Depending on the chemical, your instructor will provide you with spill clean up information at the beginning of each lab.

5. Never eat or drink in the lab.

6. Broken glass is always placed within the broken glass container.

7. The biohazard container is used for potentially biohazardous waste and will be identified clearly within the lab exercise.

![Biohazard](image)

Biohazard  As you read through each lab activity, any Biohazard precaution will be designated for easy identification. Make sure that you ask your instructor for clarification on any Biohazard warning if you have questions.

8. The liquid chemicals and reagents that we use in lab are safe to dispose of in the sink.

9. The solid waste materials that we dispose of will go into the garbage cans, as directed.

10. Keep your work area neat, clean and organized.

11. Wash your hands before and after each lab exercise.

12. There are 1st aid supplies available. If you are injured in any way—notify your instructor immediately.

13. Report any situation or condition that appears unsafe or hazardous to your instructor immediately.

14. In the case of a fire, note the number and location of fire extinguishers in the laboratory room.

15. Note the location of the eye wash stations and shower.

16. Children are not allowed in the laboratory.

17. In the case of a situation requiring evacuation, identify the meeting site outside the building.

18. There is a phone in the lab prep room, dial *911 in case of an emergency OR you may use your cell phone at this time.
Activity 1: Laboratory Safety Rules

Before attending lab:

1) Read through the entire lab exercise.
2) In your notebook, use the Lab Notebook Guidelines, to identify and complete your pre-lab writeup. (You will find the Lab Notebook Guidelines in your Lab Notebook).

During Lab

1) Complete the questions following the discussion of Lab Safety.
2) Write your conclusion paragraph.
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