

PSOM/EHRS COVID-19 & Lab Safety Guidance

❑ **Facemask not worn or worn incorrectly (nose/mouth not covered) - Lab member not in compliance with Penn's Universal Mask Precautions policy**

A surgical mask or Penn-branded cotton facemask must always be worn in laboratories. The surgical mask or Penn-Branded cotton facemask must cover your nose and mouth, even when alone in the lab.



❑ **Personnel are not maintaining at least 6 feet of separation between themselves and others.**

Staff must always keep 6 foot distance except when briefly passing in the hallway or exiting rooms. For example, if you need to review data with a colleague, use web conferencing rather than meeting in person.

❑ **Inappropriate lab attire**

Proper lab attire consisting of long-pants and closed-toed shoes (as well as lab coats, gloves, and safety glasses) must be worn when working at the bench, in a procedure room, at the fume hood, or when handling chemical or biological materials. Shorts and sandals may not be worn into the lab even under a lab coat. Lab members who do not wear long pants to the lab should keep long pants in the lab or cotton scrubs that can be worn over shorts or under skirts.

❑ **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) not worn**

Personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes lab coats, gloves and safety glasses must be worn when working with chemicals or biohazardous materials. A lab coat should always be worn in the lab except when you are at your write-up desk. The Principal Investigator must provide this equipment and enforce its use. Additional information regarding PPE is available on the EHRS website.




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☐ Food or Drink was present in the lab

Eating or drinking in lab can result in the accidental consumption of hazardous materials. Food and drink are not permitted in the laboratory.

☐ Non-Penn-Approved Mask worn - Lab members are not in compliance with Penn's Universal Mask Precautions policy

A homemade or self-purchased mask cannot be worn in lab. These face coverings, even if made with cotton, can vary widely in droplet protection. To ensure adequate mask performance Penn has standardized surgical masks as the primary mask choice in the lab as they perform better and have a lower breathing resistance than cotton face coverings. The Penn-branded cotton facemask may also be worn in the lab.

MASK TYPE	CONSTRUCTION	EXAMPLE	RECOMMENDED USE	PENN UNIVERSAL MASK USE
CDC Recommended Cloth Face Covering	2-ply cotton cloth. These masks may be self-constructed or commercially manufactured. Loops may be on the sides on top and bottom. See: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html		CDC advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may be unaware that they have the virus from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.	Acceptable for use to travel to Penn and if worn outside buildings.
Penn Cloth Face Covering	2-ply cotton cloth.		For use in Penn buildings to slow transmission of the virus from people unaware that they have the virus to others.	Acceptable for Penn Universal Mask Precautions.
Surgical-Style Masks not intended for clinical use and Dental face masks	Surgical-Style & Dental Masks are loose-fitting masks typically made of non-woven fabric and will have straps or cloth ties. Masks come in three fluid resistance ASTM levels (1-3) the higher the number the more resistance to fluid, blood, aerosol exposure or spray. Surgical-Style masks are constructed in a similar manner as surgical masks but are not manufactured for clinical use or carry FDA approval. These masks are non-sterile.		A surgical or dental mask is a loose-fitting, disposable mask that covers the nose and mouth of a person. The mask will prevent large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter from being spread by the person wearing them.	Acceptable for Penn Universal Mask Precautions. Typical of University-Supplied Face Mask