

# EHS Laboratory Guidance

## Minimum Personal Protective Equipment

### Purpose

The appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in University of Idaho laboratories is critical for reducing exposure to laboratory hazards and represents an important line of defense against potential exposure. Departments and unit supervisors must provide required PPE at no cost to affected personnel. In most instances, the minimum level of PPE for laboratory personnel consists of a lab coat, gloves, and eye protection.

### PPE Protocols

All university personnel (including students, faculty, and staff) who enter or work in laboratories and other areas that contain hazardous materials, including chemicals, biological agents and radiological materials or dangerous equipment must follow the minimum PPE standards below.

These standards apply regardless of whether work with hazardous materials is being performed at the time of entry. In addition, workers in immediately adjacent areas who have the potential to be exposed to chemical splashes or other hazards are required to don PPE equivalent to the workers handling hazardous materials.

### Laboratory Personnel

- Wear full-length clothing that fully covers the legs and ankles and closed toe/heel shoes (closed at the heel and toe, no flip flops or sandals).
- Wear ANSI approved protective eyewear (safety glasses or splash goggles) at the time of lab entry; standard prescription eyewear is insufficient so users must either wear safety glasses that fit over prescription glasses or wear ANSI approved prescription safety glasses with side shields.
- Wear lab coat or equivalent (aprons, scrubs, coveralls, etc.) in accordance with the lab hazard assessment or the posted door signage.
- Wear chemical-resistant gloves appropriate for the hazard. Consult the Safety Data Sheets for the chemicals being used for glove recommendations. For information regarding glove types, contact EHS for further information.
- Wear other hazard specific PPE according to the lab hazard assessment and Safety Data Sheets (flame resistant lab coats, respiratory protection, etc.)

### Building Services and Maintenance Staff

- Wear full-length clothing that fully covers the legs and ankles and closed toe/heel shoes (closed at the heel and toe, no flip flops or sandals).
- Wear ANSI approved protective eyewear (safety glasses or splash goggles) at the time of lab entry; standard prescription eyewear alone is insufficient.
- Wear disposable gloves.
- Do not clean benchtop surfaces or move glassware, chemicals, or other lab equipment.
- Do not touch biohazard waste bins or bags.

The picture below illustrates these requirements. Some laboratory operations and procedures may warrant additional PPE, as indicated by the Safety Data Sheet and/or the Standard Operating Procedure for the chemical(s) being used, laboratory or departmental policies, or regulatory requirements.

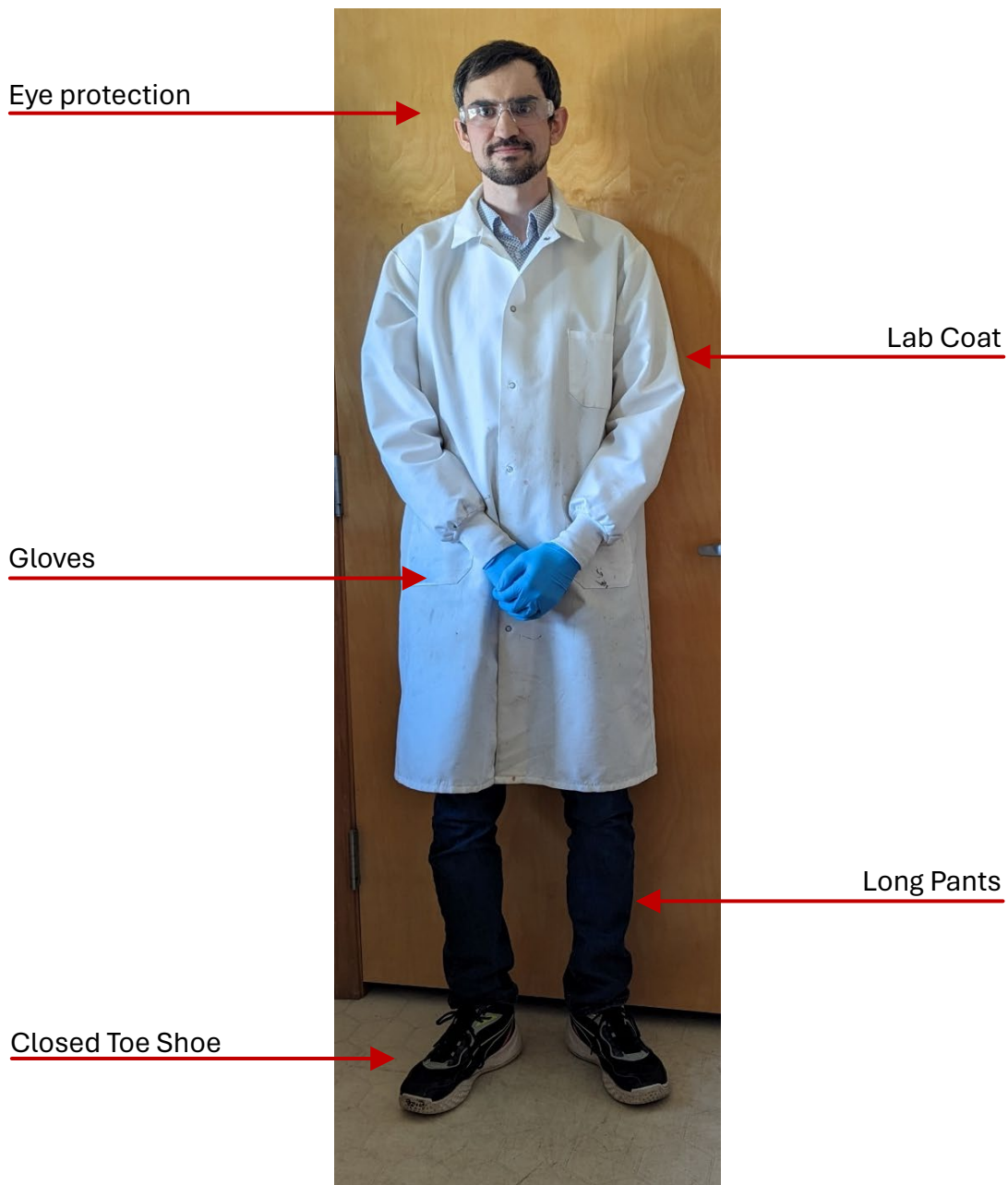


Figure 1: Minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) for lab use.

More information is in the University's [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) or OSHA's Lab Standard factsheet: <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHAfactsheet-laboratory-safety-osha-lab-standard.pdf>