

## Safety Exercises for the Microbiology Lab

Each group of students will work as a team to create one of the following safety scenarios. You will provide the situations that describe a real problem of a microbiology laboratory. You and your team will present your story to the class before departing from lab.

- “Waiter, there’s a Bug in my Soup”-No food in the lab.
- “Fire in the Hole”-When and how to use the fire extinguisher.
- “Man Overboard”-Cultures NEVER leave the lab.
- “This is the Way we Wash our Clothes”-Proper clean-up.
- “Just, Shout it Out”-Disinfection practices.
- “We Don’t Need No Stink’n Badges”- Laboratory rules, guidelines and security.

The story your group creates should include one or more of the following safety plans

- Locate and discuss the methods of safe handling of microbes.
- Discuss disinfection, sterilization and aseptic technique.
- Discuss procedures to minimize exposure and to report spills.
- Discuss personal protective equipment, OSHA and laboratory guidelines.
- Identify emergency equipment in and near the lab.
- Discuss the “buddy” system.
- Read and sign the safety agreement.

## SAFETY AGREEMENT

The microbiology laboratory contains potentially pathogenic microorganisms and toxic chemicals. Lists of organisms, chemicals and their MSDS sheets are available upon your request. We practice CDC and OSHA-recommended safety guidelines in this lab. You are asked to honor and abide by these guidelines as well. Protect yourself, your classmates and instructors from accidents and contamination. To be Safe:

1. Eating, drinking, the use of cosmetics, gum and tobacco products are strictly prohibited in this lab. Do not manipulate contact lenses in the lab. Shorts and open-toed shoes are prohibited in the lab. Leave all personal belongings on the table by the front door. Never use the lab alone.
2. Protective eyewear is required in the lab. Tie back all hair if longer than shoulder-length. Keep your hands away from your face at all times. Do not put anything (e.g. pencils) in your mouth while in the lab. Protective clothing is required while in the lab. A number of used lab coats are available if you cannot bring your own. Exposed wounds should be covered and protected.
3. Know where all fire extinguishers are located in and near the laboratory. In case of fire: stop, drop and roll. Call for help. Know where emergency eyewash stations are located. If using a sink for an emergency eyewash, always use cold water to wash eyes.
4. Disinfect your work space at the beginning and completion of your lab time. Always wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the lab and after any contact with infectious agents.
5. Handle cultures of microorganisms with extreme care. Assume any microbe can cause disease. NEVER pipette by mouth! Notify your instructor immediately should you spill a culture or get organisms on yourself. Cultures are to NEVER leave the lab.
6. Place all used materials in their appropriate receptacle: test tubes and bottles into baskets in the discard tray; Petri dishes, swabs and pipettes to the plastic-lined box.

I have read the above guidelines and agree to abide by them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

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Student ID #