

Safety in the Laboratory

The science laboratory is a place where discovery leads to knowledge and understanding. It is also a place where care and caution is essential for your safety and the safety of others. Your knowledge of and adherence to safe laboratory practices are important factors in avoiding accidents. The information below describes some basic rules for safe laboratory work. Your teacher will provide additional rules specific to your laboratory setting. Always observe these rules in the laboratory.

- 1.) Wear appropriate safety goggles at all times while you or other students are working in the laboratory, even if you are just observing.
- 2.) Dress properly for the laboratory. Do not wear loose-fitting sleeves, bulky outerwear, dangling jewelry, or open-toed shoes. Tie back long hair and tuck in ties and scarves when using heat or chemicals.
- 3.) Locate and learn to properly use all laboratory safety equipment.
- 4.) Read and follow the safety signs posted throughout the laboratory area.
- 5.) Never begin or conduct an investigation without your teacher's direct supervision.
- 6.) Read and follow all parts of an investigation and follow your teacher's directions completely, paying special attention to the investigation-specific CAUTIONS and WARNINGS.
- 7.) Never eat, drink, chew gum, or apply cosmetics in the laboratory. Avoid touching your face, eyes, mouth, nose, and ears after handling chemicals or equipment. Do not store food or beverages in the lab area.
- 8.) Never eat or even taste anything from any investigation; Never use labware as food or drink containers.
- 9.) Always wash your hands with soap and water after working in the lab.
- 10.) Never reach over a flame or heat source. Keep hair, clothing, and flammable materials away from flames.
- 11.) Never run, push, play, yell, scream, or fool around in the laboratory.
- 12.) Keep your work area clean and uncluttered. Leave books, purses, and other items in the designated area.
- 13.) Keep glassware and containers of chemicals away from the edges of your lab bench.
- 14.) Report all accidents to your teacher immediately. Do not use broken, cracked, or chipped glassware.
- 15.) Turn off electrical equipment, water, and gas when not in use.
- 16.) Never touch a hot object with your bare hands. Use clamps, tongs, or heat-resistant gloves when handling objects that are or may be hot.
- 17.) Use care in handling electrical equipment. Check for frayed cords, loose connections, or broken wires before use. Do not use electrical equipment near water or touch with wet hands. Make sure cords do not dangle from workbenches.
- 18.) Use flammable chemicals only after ensuring that there are no flames in the laboratory.
- 19.) Immediately report any safety concerns, including personal health concerns, your ability to conduct an investigation, any broken equipment, spills, debris, or others' unsafe behavior.
- 20.) If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, ask the teacher before proceeding.

I have read these rules and agree to abide by them. If I choose not to follow these rules or if I fail to conduct myself in a safe manner at all times while in the laboratory, I realize I will be removed from the lab area and receive a zero for that activity.

Student Name – PLEASE PRINT

Signature

Date

I have read the lab safety rules and understand that if my child does not follow the rules, he/she will be removed from the lab and will receive a zero for that activity.

Parent/Guardian Name – PLEASE PRINT

Signature

Date