
From: laboratory-safety-request@lists.uchicago.edu on behalf of Office of Research Safety
<researchsafety@uchicago.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:59 PM
To: laboratory-safety@lists.uchicago.edu
Subject: [Laboratory-Safety] SAFELab Newsletter Winter 2021



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Office of Research and
National Laboratories
Office of Research Safety

SAFELab Newsletter

(Safety Advisory Forum for Experimental Laboratories)

Volume 3, Issue 2

Winter Qtr 2021

Upcoming Training

To satisfy social distancing efforts, all training for the following are accessible online either via live Zoom training or a webinar. [Click here to sign up.](#)

- **Radiation Safety**
- **Chemical Hygiene Plan (Lab Safety)**
- **Comprehensive Biosafety**
- **IATA Shipping Dangerous Goods**

Please note, you do not need to have an EHSA account to take training, but when trying to access EHSA without an account, you will be rejected. Please [contact the EHSA administrator](#) to request access.

HAZWOPER Certification

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response

ORS offers a HAZWOPER Certification course specifically for work at UChicago. The next course

Announcements

Kimberly Mormann (1979-2020)



Dear Community,

We invite you to attend a virtual ***Celebration of Remembrance for Kimberly Mormann*** (1979-2020) on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 4:30 PM.

Kimberly served as a lab safety specialist for over five years and worked closely with researchers and administrators across the PSD, PME, Office of Research Safety (ORS), and Environmental Health

will be the 8 hour refresher which is scheduled to take place on Feb 24th/25th. A 40-hour course will be available in the near future.

If anyone is interested in this course, please [contact the ORS Administrator](#).

Training Module in EHSA

To access **online** training:

<https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training>

To register for **live** training:

<https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/trainingregistration>

Contact the EHSA Administrator for technical assistance.

External Events

ABSA's 1st Biosecurity Symposium

April 21-22, 2021

The Symposium will consist of papers, presentations, keynotes, posters, valuable networking opportunities, and exhibits.

ABSA International's 1st Biosecurity Virtual Symposium will galvanize and bring together biosecurity professionals from a wide range of disciplines with varying expertise to share their experiences and knowledge, and to learn from each other. The agenda includes themes on biosecurity governance, implementation, personnel reliability, bioeconomy, biosecurity in DIYbio communities, biosecurity training, cyberbiosecurity, and interactive discussions on lessons learned and public engagement for the future. The symposium will showcase thought-provoking leaders and pioneering researchers from various traditional and non-traditional fields

and Safety Office (EHS). She also served as a mentor for the Joint Research Safety Initiative (JRSI), a safety community run by students, post-docs, and research assistants on campus to provide accessible safety and educational resources.

In advance of the Celebration of Remembrance, we welcome you to [submit a tribute](#) to the ORS tribute page, [send condolences to the family](#), or [make memorial contributions](#). We will also invite anyone who wishes to share a memory or anecdote about Kimberly during the event.

Celebration of Remembrance for Kimberly Mormann

Feb. 3, 2021

4:30 PM

[Zoom Registration](#)



Winter Quarter Attestation is now due

Please remember to sign your quarterly attestation for the Winter Quarter.



Employee Vaccinations

As of January 25, Chicago has entered Phase 1b of COVID-19 vaccine distribution. The city's current [distribution plan](#) is:

Phase 1b: Begins January 25

Phase 1c: Tentatively begins March 29

Phase 2: Tentatively begins May 31

People eligible for vaccination in Phase 1b will include teachers and other employees at N-12 schools, and people age 65 and over. We anticipate that additional University personnel will be eligible to receive a vaccine during Phase 1c, and everyone 16 and older will be eligible during Phase 2.

Please visit the [UChicago GoForward website](#) for the most current information about employee vaccinations.

that intersect with biosecurity. A segment on new and emerging topics in biosecurity will also be featured.

Around Campus

Joint Research Safety Initiative (JRSI)

The JRSI is a community of students, post-docs and research assistants whose focus is to promote a culture of safety for the Chemistry Department and Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME). The JRSI have finalized their team for 2021. Congratulations to the following:

Mason Dearborn (President)

Sarah Zinn (co-President)

James Lettow (Finance Committee Chair)

William Grubbe

Aritrajit Gupta

Jerry Hertzog

Joshua Portner

Nasim Mirzajani

Samir Hossainy

Andrew Gorud

For more information, [visit JRSI's website](#).



General Information

Which Safety Unit Do I Call?

Have a question or need help but are unsure who to contact? Visit the new ["Who Does What?"](#) page on the Environmental Health and Safety's

Guidance to Remind Others to Follow Health & Safety Requirements

As business continues, students return and classes resume, there are new ways to adapt to interacting safely. The University has developed a [Health Pact](#) to which University Community members are expected to adhere.

If you witness or have heard of a situation of non-compliance with COVID-19 public health requirements, and depending on the urgency of the situation, you can report the situation:

*Immediately to your supervisor, Dean of Students, or academic leader;

*Via [UCAIR](#), the University's incident reporting system for COVID-19 safety matters. UCAIR reports are received by Risk Management, Environmental Health and Safety, and the Office of Research Safety upon submission. When reporting through UCAIR, please provide as much detail as possible in your report, which will be reviewed for follow-up (typically within 24 hours) by the appropriate campus administrator. As a reminder, UCAIR reports can be submitted anonymously if preferred. Depending upon the amount of information detailed in the UCAIR report, these reports are escalated to University leadership; this escalation may include notifications to the involved PI or supervisor, the respective department chair, the respective dean's office, and to the VP for Research.

[Click here for more information about addressing non-compliance.](#)

The Human Resources Department revised the University's Business Conduct policy to include safety guidelines and COVID-19 requirements. [Please click here to view the policy.](#)

Return to Campus Required Training:

Students should complete [cvd-03W: General Safety Training](#), which is designed to inform UChicago Students of the policies and expectations related to compliance with COVID-19-related public health requirements. You must pass the quiz with a 70% or better.

*Students who have successfully completed CVD-01W or CVD-02W are exempt from having to take the student COVID-19 training, cvd-

website (direct link also available on the ORS website) where you will find a comprehensive list of activities, definitions and who to contact.

There is a search function that will help make navigation easier. If you have any questions, please contact us at researchsafety@uchicago.edu or call 773-834-2707.

For emergencies, always contact campus police at 123 (campus phone), or 773-702-8181.

Hazardous Waste Pickup

Campus laboratory hazardous waste pickups regularly occur on Thursday's. Medical Center research laboratory hazardous waste pickups occur on Wednesday's.

For campus locations, enter waste pick-ups through [EH&S Assistant](#). If you need access to the EH&S Assistant, contact Environmental Health and Safety at safety@uchicago.edu. For laboratories located in the Medical Center, contact the Environmental Health and Safety Medicine Office at 773.795.SAFE or safety.office@uchospitals.edu.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with ensuring safety at the University of Chicago. Please feel free to contact Environmental Health and Safety at safety@uchicago.edu or 773.702.9999 with any questions.

Click here to learn more about [Hazardous Waste handling](#).

Click here to view the [Hazardous Waste Disposal Flow Chart](#)

03W.

Laboratory Personnel should complete [cvd-01W: COVID-19 Controlled Resumption of Research Activities](#) which is designed to inform staff, faculty and students of UChicago policies related to compliance with COVID-19-related public health recommendations in a laboratory or other research environment. You must pass the quiz with a 70% or better.

Non-Laboratory Personnel should complete [cvd-02W: COVID-19 General Safety Training](#), which is designed to inform staff, faculty and students of UChicago policies related to compliance with COVID-19-related public health requirements outside of the research environment. You must pass the quiz with a 70% or better.

Additional information for resuming research in your laboratory can be found on the [ORS website](#). Or you may email your questions to: researchsafety@uchicago.edu

Email questions regarding the attestation to attestation-inquiry@lists.uchicago.edu

Information about isolation on and off campus can be found here: <https://goforward.uchicago.edu/isolation/>

For the most up-to-date information on the University's plans and guidelines on Winter Quarter, visit www.goforward.uchicago.edu

The University will continue to provide information and updates, visit <https://coronavirusupdates.uchicago.edu>

COVID-19 Resources: Educational Assignments

Please note that all in-person lab-related Educational Assignments for non UChicago students continue to be suspended until further notice. There are new guidelines for students registered at UChicago. [Click here to view the new guidelines](#).

Educational Assignments conducted remotely/virtually may continue.

Please submit the request forms [available on our website](#). Contact the ORS Administrator with any questions.

Need to update or organize your Safety Data Sheet binder?

As required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Principal Investigators/Supervisors shall maintain safety data sheets (SDS) which are received with incoming shipments of hazardous chemicals, and ensure they are readily accessible to employees when they are in their work areas. If you would like to replace a damaged or misplaced safety data sheet, please consider using the new SDS Hub at <https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/sds>. Members at the University of Chicago with a valid CNET ID can now access pertinent Safety Data Sheets at this SDS Hub, which is populated by multiple universities across the continent, resulting in an impressive list of readily available safety data sheets.

If the safety data sheet you seek is not available in the SDS Hub, then you can send a search request to our vendor. You will be asked for the Catalog number, Vendor name, and chemical name.

Please note you can link safety data sheets from the SDS Hub to items within your existing EHSA chemical inventory.

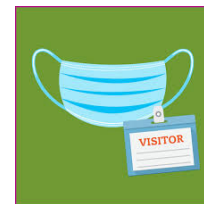
UCAIR

The **University of Chicago Accident and Incident Reporting** system ([UCAIR](#)) provides a user-friendly mechanism for reporting work-related accidents and incidents to [EHS](#) and [ORS](#). For more information about UCAIR, visit the [FAQs page](#). We also encourage the reporting of unsafe conditions observed on campus.

Please remember to first call 123 (on-campus

COVID-19 Resources: Visitors on Campus

The UChicago GoForward website provides guidance related to visitors on campus.



Please visit <https://goforward.uchicago.edu/visitor-information/> for more information.

Vendors must complete the [Vendor Access Form](#) prior to arriving.

Chemical Safety Blog

What is the Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP)?

"The [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) is a written program stating the policies, procedures and responsibilities that protect workers from the health hazards associated with the hazardous chemicals used in that particular workplace." -OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450

Remember these elements of CHP:

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for activities involving use of extremely hazardous chemicals and procedures
- Training records
- Emergency procedures and medical consultation
- Chemical Inventory
- Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) for OSHA regulated substances
- Annual CHP training is required and mandatory for all laboratory workers.**
- CHP's are specific to the lab and should be reviewed and updated Annually.

The Talapin Lab keeps a copy of their CHP organized in a binder and accessible for all

phone) or 773.702.8181 (off-campus phone) for accidents requiring emergency response to ensure the appropriate emergency response personnel are notified.

Involved individuals, supervisors, affected persons, or witnesses can submit reports. Anonymous reporting is available for events that do not require medical treatment.



Click icon to visit the UCAIR website

Medical Payments for UChicago Student Injuries (MedPay)

What is covered?

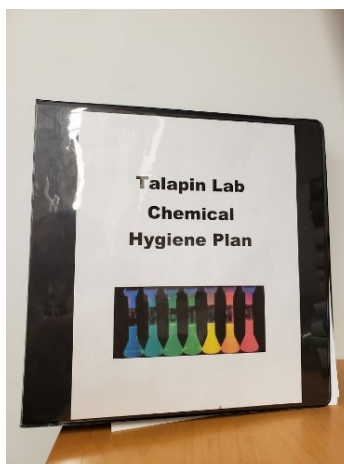
Out-of-pocket costs incurred for emergency medical care for accidents or injuries sustained during assigned responsibilities while in laboratories or other research activity, regardless of fault.

Who is covered?

UChicago students injured during assigned responsibilities in laboratories or other research activity. Includes enrolled UChicago graduate and undergraduate degree students.

The program is set up for covering emergency care at UCMC and would not apply to non-degree visiting students or injuries that occur in field research. In these instances, students should utilize their health insurance. Additionally, students who are injured abroad can call International SOS for assistance.

Submitting a timely report of the injury via [UCAIR](#) will route resulting medical bills for payment by



(Photo courtesy of the Talapin Lab)

For more information about CHP's, [visit our website](#).

Radiation Safety presents: Laser Faire (Laser Safety blog)

Laser Safety Eyewear Care



When full containments of a Class 3b or Class 4 laser is not possible, an ocular hazard may be present and laser safety eyewear (LSE) may be required. It is imperative to use the proper eyewear as prescribed by the Laser Safety Officer.

Quality pairs of LSE can be expensive and a laboratory may not have a pair covering all of the lasers in the lab for every individual researcher. It is common that the laboratory has a few pairs of the appropriate eyewear and researchers are expected to share depending on who is in the lab. It is vital to use proper cleaning and

the Office of Risk Management. It is important that UChicago students identify themselves as UChicago students when submitting via [UCAIR](#).

If a student receives bills for related treatment, they should contact the [Office of Risk Management](#) at risk@uchicago.edu.

Any additional questions or concerns should be directed to the [Office of Risk Management](#).

Does your department have any information to share in our newsletter? Would you like to see something specific?

[Click here to contact the ORS Administrator](#)



Learn more about the Office of Research Safety or our partners by [visiting our website](#).

Related Links

[Office of Research and National Laboratories](#)
[Howard Taylor Ricketts Laboratory](#)
[Environmental Health & Safety](#)
[Medical Center Environmental Health & Safety](#)
[Animal Resources Center](#)
[Institutional Care & Animal Use Committee](#)
[Institutional Biosafety Committee](#)
[Marine Biological Laboratory](#)
[Duke Infectious Disease Response Training](#)
[Joint Research Safety Initiative](#)

storage techniques to prevent damage from harsh cleaning agents and surface scratches to laser eyewear. Here are some reminders for proper laser eyewear care:

Store the glasses in a protective case and in a designated location when not in use taking care not to rest the eyewear on the lenses as this may scratch the surface and potentially damage an attenuating coating.

Before each use, inspect the LSE for scratches, pits, discoloration, and coating damage on attenuation material, check the integrity of the frame, and the elastic bands on goggles. If you come across any damaged eyewear, cease from using them immediately! A documented LSE inspection submitted to the LSO every 6 months is required by Illinois law!

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been reminded of the importance of routine cleaning of surfaces and shared equipment. Cleaning your LSE between users will help prevent the spread of pathogens. We have reached out to manufacturers to find out how they recommend users decontaminate their LSE: Use warm water and dish soap! Dry the eyewear with a soft lint free cloth. DO NOT clean eyewear when dry as this may damage surface coatings, do not use highly caustic solutions, and do not immerse LSE into water, not sterilization/disinfectant fluids.

COVID-19 has also led to the universal masking requirement. As anyone who wears corrective lenses knows: masks + glasses = fog! We also reached out to the manufacturers to find out how they recommend mitigating the fogging risk of combining masks with LSE: According to the manufacturers any commercial anti-fog film would work, and the trusted shaving cream trick should not have any negative impact on your LSE lenses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at: lasersafety@chicago.edu

Quick Tips

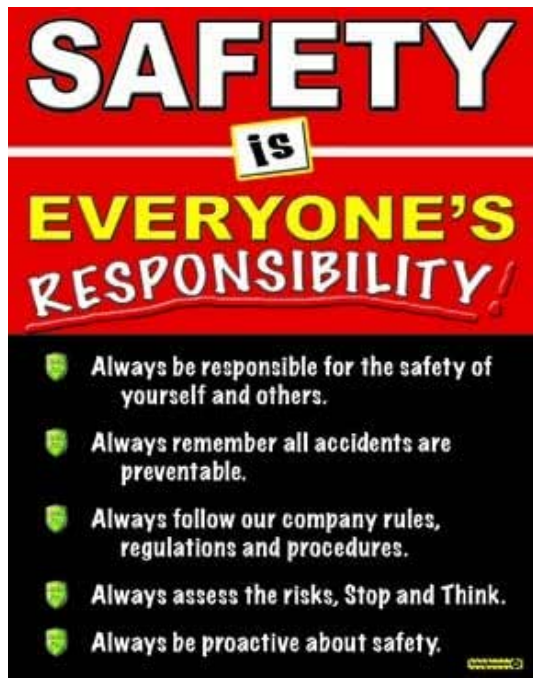
Quick Tip 1: Safe Dining

As more researchers return to campus for the Winter quarter, please be safe and adhere to distancing protocols when eating. Standard

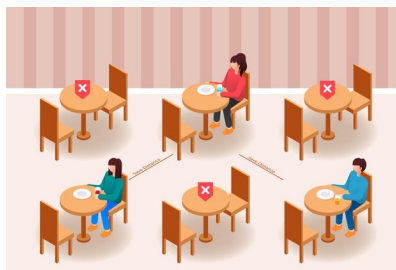
Questions?

[Email us!](#)

Call: 773-834-2707



distancing protocols are 6'-0" but extend to 8'-0" when dining. As a general reminder, **do not eat or drink inside the lab** (this includes your desk in the lab). Plan ahead for eating on campus, as in-person dining will be offered only at a limited number of locations with limited seating capacity and most meals will be prepared for take away. Look for designated spaces in your building. Tables in the common areas have been appropriately arranged to maintain distance, please do not move these tables together.



Quick Tip 2: Contaminated Chairs

Laboratory chairs are probably one of the most neglected items used. Beyond having a chair that's in good condition and comfortable to sit in while you work, many normal office chairs are completely unsuited for use in the lab.

The problem is the fabric upholstery used on chairs. Fabric upholstery, just like carpet or rugs on the floor, is extremely difficult to decontaminate in case of a splash or spill. The liquid will soak into the fabric, as opposed to being easy to wipe up. Water-resistant vinyl upholstery is much easier to clean, and is the better option. Fabric chairs should be in offices and conference rooms instead.

If your current work chair breaks, make sure to get one that will not act as a sponge for spills. If you have questions on whether a chair is suitable for lab use, or any lab safety issue, please contact ORS at researchsafety@uchicago.edu



To unsubscribe, please [click here to send an email](#) or visit <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web> to remove yourself from the Lab Safety ListServ. You must include your UChicago CNET or the email you used at UChicago. If your emails are forwarded to a Google account, please [update your settings](#).

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