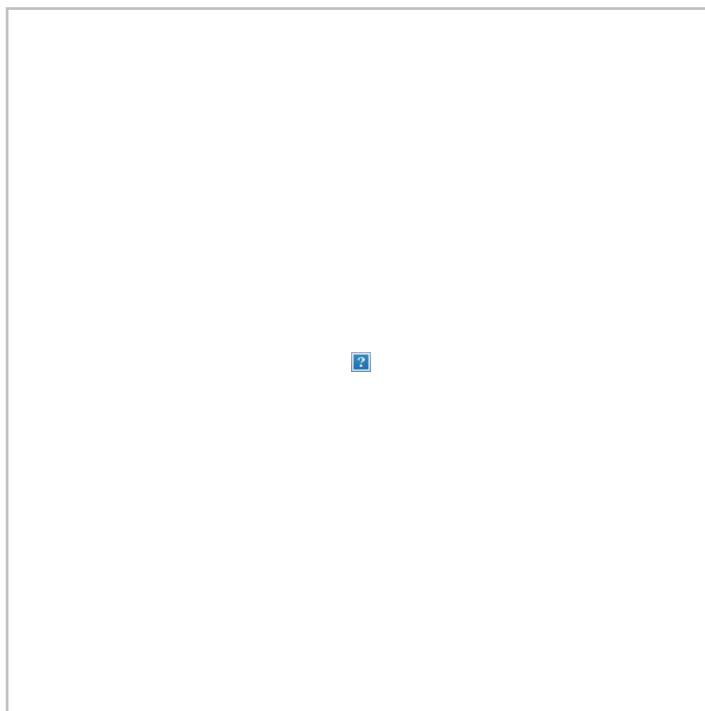


**From:** [Office of Research Safety](#)  
**To:** [Chantene Zichterman](#)  
**Subject:** SAFELab Newsletter Fall 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:28:08 AM

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## SAFELab Newsletter

(Safety Advisory Forum for Experimental Laboratories)

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2020

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### 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.

#### 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.](#)

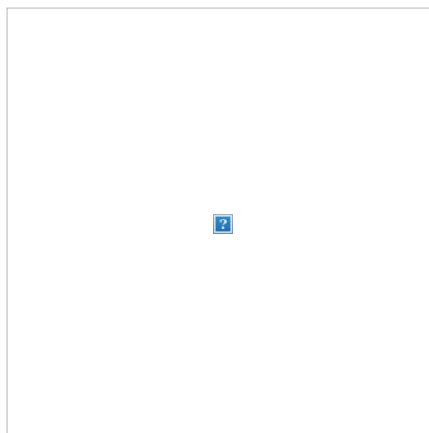
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### Events

Click here for [American Biological Safety Association-International](#) biosafety events.

Click here for [American Chemical Society Events](#)

**Virtual International Conference on Radiation Safety** Nov 9-20, 2020. International Atomic Energy Agency. Click [here for more info.](#)



**Return to campus:** Welcome back students! We are thrilled to see new and returning students on campus. Remember, more than ever, we need to take steps to help protect fellow students, faculty, staff and other community members during this challenging time. The University has implemented a [COVID-19 Health Pact](#) for us all to follow together to help keep the University community safe and healthy.

Individuals that return to campus are required to follow the University's [COVID-19 Health Requirements](#), which includes successful completion of [Training](#) and the [COVID-19 Requirement Affirmation](#).

#### Training:

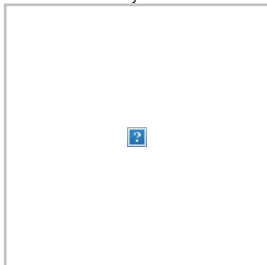
**Students should complete cvd-03W: General Safety Training**, which is designed to inform UChicago Students of the policies and expectations related to compliance with COVID-19-related public health requirements. You must pass the quiz with a 70% or better. \*Students who have successfully completed CVD-01W or CVD-02W are exempt from having to take the student COVID-19 training, cvd-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

## Annual Safety Games

It is that time of year where, under normal circumstances, we would launch our annual Safety Games Scavenger Hunt. The Office of Research Safety has discussed potentially employing a virtual format, but we all felt that it wouldn't be as much fun, fair, or effective to do it completely virtual. Since many of our topics for the Scavenger Hunt involve traveling on-campus, we are postponing Safety games until the public health crisis has resolved; our #1 priority is everyone's health and safety.



## 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 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](mailto: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 have resumed the regular Thursday waste pickup day. Medical Center research laboratory hazardous waste pickups remain on Wednesday.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:safety@uchicago.edu) or 773.702.9999 with any questions.

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

### 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 in 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.

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](mailto:researchsafety@uchicago.edu)

Email questions regarding the attestation to [attestation-inquiry@lists.uchicago.edu](mailto: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 Autumn Quarter, visit [www.goforward.uchicago.edu](http://www.goforward.uchicago.edu)

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

## Announcements

### COVID-19 Resources: Educational Assignments

Please note that all in-person lab-related Educational Assignments continue to be suspended until further notice. However, in specific circumstances, exceptions to this policy have been granted. Please [contact the ORS Administrator](#) with questions.

Educational Assignments conducted remotely/virtually may continue. Please submit the request forms available on our website at <https://researchsafety.uchicago.edu/policies-manuals/educational-assignments-and-other-research-activities/> for more information.

### 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.

### COVID-19 Resources: Online Symptom Checker is now available for the UChicago Community

The [UChicago C19 Checker](#) is an online tool designed to help you quickly check your symptoms and risk factors to see if your symptoms indicate potential COVID-19 infection. The Checker is based on clinical best practices and CDC guidelines, and considers illness severity and risk factors such as age and pre-existing conditions. If your responses to prompts in the online tool indicate that you have potential symptoms of COVID-19, the Checker provides contact information for further medical help or to schedule a COVID-19 test.



All members of the University community are strongly encouraged to visit the site and familiarize themselves with the tool. Setting a daily reminder for yourself each morning is a good way to build the habit of using the Checker. It is easy to use and entirely confidential.

### 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.

Unfortunately, there have been numerous situations where someone was not in compliance with the public health requirements. Guidance for handling such scenarios is available on the UChicago GoForward website, as found in the links below:

- \*Scenarios for Students
- \*Scenarios for Academics and Staff

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.](#)

### 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.

### What to do in case of injury involving a UChicago student?

1. [CALL](#)



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.

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## 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 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

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## 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 Institute for Molecular Engineering (IME).

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



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**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](#).

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## 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](#)

### Questions?

[Email us!](#)

Call: 773-834-2707



If an emergency or bloodborne pathogen/needle stick, to ensure proper emergency response procedures are triggered (i.e., on-call safety offices and on-call engineers are paged), the student or someone on the student's behalf should immediately call:

\*For emergencies: Call 123 (campus phone) or 773.702.8181 (non-campus phone)

\*For bloodborne pathogen/needle sticks: Call Hotline at 773.753.1880 pager 9990#

## 2. GET TREATMENT

Injured UChicago students should go immediately to University Occupational Medicine Clinic (UCOM) or to the Adult Emergency Department (ED) afterhours, even if going to the ED means waiting to be seen. In certain instances, prophylactic treatment is critical in the first hours after exposure. Students should not go to Student Health Services (SHS) or their primary care physicians, who may not be equipped to handle cases related to injuries in laboratories.

\*For emergencies or emergent care: Adult Emergency Department (ED) at 5656 S. Maryland Ave.

\*For non-emergencies/laboratory exposures: University Occupational Medicine Clinic (UCOM) at 5841 S Maryland Ave, Room D-136. Examples of laboratory exposures include, but are not limited to, biological exposures, needle sticks (call hotline first) or animal bite/scratch. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, go to the Adult Emergency Department at 5656 S. Maryland Ave.

## IMPORTANT

\*In the ED (or DCAM Pharmacy, if applicable), request to be billed and do not make any payments.

\*In UCOM, identify self as a student.

## 3. FILE A REPORT

As soon as reasonably possible, before or after seeking treatment (and AFTER calling the emergency numbers, if required), submit a report via UChicago Accident & Incident Reporting System (UCAIR). Reporting via UCAIR notifies Environmental Health & Safety (EHS), the Office of Research Safety (ORS) and Risk Management of an incident to investigate, track, and enforce compliance if needed. EHS or ORS will initiate root-cause analysis within specified timeframes.

Submitting a timely report of the injury via UCAIR will route resulting medical bills for payment by 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](mailto:risk@uchicago.edu).**

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



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## 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 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](mailto:lasersafety@chicago.edu)

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## Quick Tips

### Quick Tip 1: Stop Wearing Shorts in the Lab

As a gentle reminder, shorts and open toed shoes have been observed being worn in laboratories within the campus footprint. The minimum laboratory attire when occupying a lab shall be comprised of clothing that covers the upper body and leaves no skin exposed below the waist, including long pants and closed toe shoes.



It is of great importance to not only preserve the integrity of our culture of safety here at the University of Chicago, but to also protect ourselves from injury. [Please click here to view the University's Personal Protective Equipment policy](#).

### Quick Tip 2: New Researchers in the Lab

This is the time of year when a large number of new graduate students and researchers typically begin working in labs. It is important to provide appropriate orientation/on-boarding to include not only a tour, but also to include an introduction to our culture of laboratory

safety. ORS has developed a useful [Research Personnel Orientation Checklist](#) that contains the important areas to cover. It can serve as a permanent record that both the lab manager and the new researcher can routinely use. Some of the important steps include:

**-Chemical Hygiene Plan / General Laboratory Safety 101 training (CHP)** – Everyone working in a wet laboratory must complete this training. Normally, you must attend in person for the first time; due to the COVID-19 restrictions, ORS is currently offering this course live via Zoom. After the live session has been completed, a brief refresher training will be required each year either live or via an online module.

**-Add new researchers to your roster** – Each lab has a list of current staff recorded in our EHSA database. When a new member joins your lab, using the worker registration option in EHSA, you can submit an add-on request with their information. [Instructions available here.](#)

**-If your lab works with recombinant DNA**, your Principal Investigator (PI) must have an IBC protocol which can be submitted, amended and viewed [in AURA](#). If the new researcher's will be doing work with rDNA or other items covered under your protocol, make sure to create "Personnel - Funding Amendment" to add them to the IBC Protocol and/or remove anyone who is no longer affiliated. Remember that all amendments need to be submitted by the PI.

**-Share the safety equipment and emergency plans.** Even if something may seem obvious to you, remember that each person's background and cultures may differ. Introducing a new procedure should always include the development of and training on a safety protocol. For dangerous procedures, first review the process to make sure it is safe to proceed with a trainee. New individuals may be unfamiliar with existing dangers. **Develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** for tasks big and small as a guide for anyone who may need to look back at reference material. ORS provides a [template for SOPs here](#).

**-The ORS team are your partners in safe research.** Please share our contact information. No one will be judged or punished for accidents, incidents or near misses - we want to help as your colleagues. [Remember to report all accidents, incidents or near misses to UCAIR](#). Anonymous reporting is always an option.

With these ideas in mind, you can get your new researchers off to a good start. If you or your new colleague have questions, feel free to reach out to ORS at [researchsafety@uchicago.edu](mailto:researchsafety@uchicago.edu)



### Radiation Safety Crossword Puzzle



[Click to download PDF](#)

#### Across

1. A common type of radioactive contaminator survey meter: \_\_\_\_ - Mueller
3. Radioactive element found in some smoke detectors
7. Radioisotope used in some EXIT signs
10. The "R" in ALARA
15. An instrument used for detecting tritium contamination: Liquid \_\_\_\_ Counter
16. The standard unit of radioactivity
18. One of the three major principles to assist in reducing exposure to radiation
19. Common material for shielding beta emitters
22. The range of a beta particle in matter is determined by the \_\_\_\_ of the particle

#### Down

2. Radioactive decay is a \_\_\_\_ process
4. The Law of Bergonie and Tribondeau describes the \_\_\_\_ of tissue

5. Scientist who discovered radioactivity
6. One of the three major principles to assist in reducing exposure to radiation
8. Name of a positively charged electron
9. One of the three major principles to assist in reducing exposure to radiation
11. Radioactive subatomic particle with mass almost equivalent to that of a proton and neutral charge
12. When not in use, radioactive materials must be kept \_\_\_\_\_ away
13. Researchers using radioactive material are required to complete training
14. On average, the highest contributor to natural background dose
17. General term to describe amount of radiation absorbed in material
20. Common material for shielding gamma emitters
21. When radioactive material is being used by your lab, the frequency at which contamination surveys shall be documented

\*Anyone who successfully completes this crossword puzzle should forward their results to [the ORS Administrator](#) for a prize.

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To unsubscribe, please [click here to send an email](#) or visit <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web>. 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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SAFE Lab Quarterly Newsletter 

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