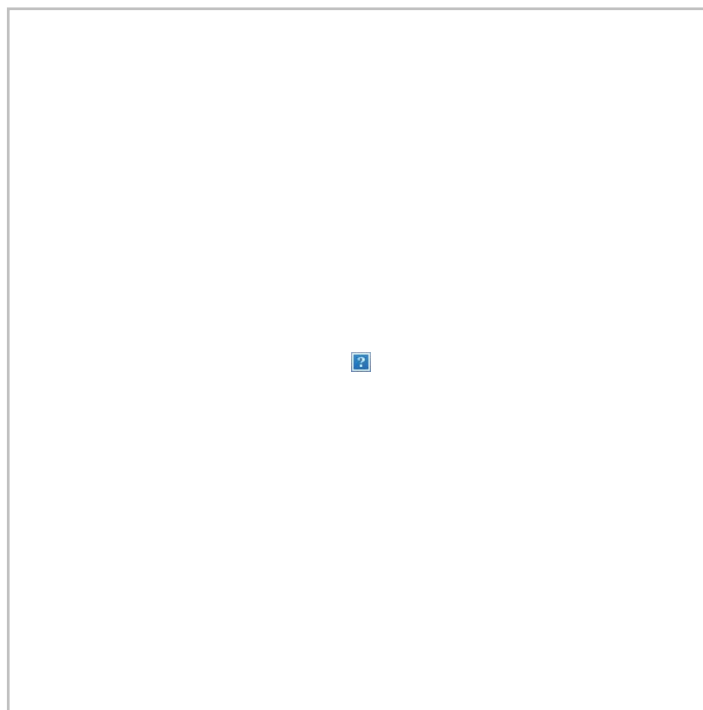


From: laboratory-safety-request@lists.uchicago.edu on behalf of [Office of Research Safety](#)
To: labsafetycontacts@lists.uchicago.edu; laboratory-safety@lists.uchicago.edu
Subject: [Laboratory-Safety] SAFELab Newsletter July 2020
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 9:40:10 AM



SAFELab Newsletter

(Safety Advisory Forum for Experimental Laboratories)

Volume 2, Issue 4

July 2020

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 manager](#) 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.](#)

Events

Planning Update for the Workplace
Information about the University's plans for Autumn Quarter 2020
Thursday, July 16, 2020
12:15-1:00 PM CT



Resumption of Research:

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

Training:

For Laboratory Personnel, the [Office of Research Safety](#) prepared [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.

For Non-Laboratory Personnel, the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) office prepared [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 [QRS website](#). Or you may email your questions to: researchsafety@uchicago.edu.

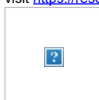
For the most up-to-date information on the University's plans and guidelines on Autumn Quarter, visit www.goforward.uchicago.edu

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

Announcements

COVID-19 Resources: Resources for ramping up your lab

The Office of Research Safety's website has several resources available for the safe ramp-up of your laboratory. Please visit <https://researchsafety.uchicago.edu/covid-19/> for more information.



General Information

Medical Payments for UChicago Student Injuries Occurring in Laboratories at UChicago

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.

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](#).

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](#) 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.

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

Chemical Safety: Ramp Down/ Decommissioning and Updating Chemical Inventory

The campus closure put a number of labs under a scheduling crunch when they were unable to get started on their decommissioning this spring. Please [reach out to ORS ASAP](#) if your lab will be closing down or relocating. Labs should be reviewing their chemical stocks to clear out any expired inventory, particularly for peroxide forming chemicals.

This is also a great opportunity to update your lab's chemical inventory in [EHSA](#) every time chemicals are received or removed from the lab. Reviewing the chemical inventory periodically ensures everyone's safety in the laboratory.



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. 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 view the [Hazardous Waste Disposal Flow Chart](#)



Radiation Safety presents: Laser Faire (Laser Safety blog)

Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE)

When driving down the open highway, through a neighborhood street, or winding through the mountains, there is a speed limit you are required to adhere to; travel up to the speed limit and you won't get a ticket, but the more you exceed the speed limit, the more likely you are to get a ticket. Lasers also have a safety "speed limit," the Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE).

The MPE is the upper limit of power or energy, per unit area of laser radiation where an exposure will not result in adverse effects. Generally, receiving an exposure up to the MPE and you are okay, but the more you exceed the MPE, the more risk there is of unwanted consequences.

The MPE is a fundamental calculation which is used in calculating other laser safety parameters such as the Optical Density (O.D.) protection factor of laser safety eyewear you need for a particular laser, and the distances from the beam that the laser radiation remains hazardous. The wavelength and time of exposure are the key laser parameters required for calculating the MPE. The Radiation Safety Office performs hazard evaluation for all Class 3B and Class 4 lasers on campus. This hazard evaluation will include calculating the MPE, the O.D. required for the laser safety eyewear, as well as the hazard distances. If you have any questions about the hazards of your lasers feel free to reach out to us at: Lasersafety@lists.uchicago.edu

Again, remember to register your lasers so that we can perform the necessary hazard evaluations.



Radiation Safety Crossword Puzzle

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](#).



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](#)



[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

Quick Tips

Quick Tip 1: Avoiding the Mask Fog

Laboratory workers are running into a recurring problem of masks fogging safety eye-wear. This is incredibly annoying, and can be dangerous.

To prevent this, think about the process of fogging- Warm, moist air is exhaled and contacts the cooler eye-wear, causing condensation to form on the surface of the eye-wear in a thin film. Block this at one or more points, and you have clearer goggles.



While none of these methods are perfect, they can reduce the annoyance of wearing masks with eye protection:

1. Keep the air off the goggles - tighten your mask over the bridge of your nose so that it has a tighter seal. This can involve pushing your glasses forward to press on the upper edge of the mask, or even using first aid tape to keep the mask fitted to your nose.
2. Keep your goggles close to body temperature - warm up your goggles before putting them on your face. This works like a car's defogger, and can be done by keeping the goggles close to your body when you are not wearing them.
3. Keep the the glasses clean - cleaning eye-wear will reduce fogging, especially certain specific anti-fog solutions. Even cleaning glasses with detergent and water will help. Check the website of your eye-wear manufacturer if you are not sure if a cleaner is suitable.
4. Some eye-wear is coated to resist fogging - this is somewhat more expensive, but the coating does help.

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](#)

Questions?

[Email us!](#)
Call: 773-834-2707



Quick Tip 2: How to Write a Good UCAIR COVID-19 Report

So you saw someone not following the reopening guidelines. Now what do you do? Go to <https://ucair.uchicago.edu> or use our [mobile phone app](#).

There is no need to report every time someone's mask slips down, or if you need to remind a person to maintain social distancing. If they listen to you and fix the issue, the problem is solved. If the person refuses to comply when asked or it is a recurring problem, then we want to know. Similarly, if someone is annoyed by having to wear a mask or frustrated with the reopening process, that's normal. If you are not certain, just send it our way and we will evaluate it.

Consider using your name. While we appreciate anonymous reports, we will follow up with people who use their name in the UCAIR form to let them know that the concern is being handled. We will keep your name confidential unless you specify otherwise.

Note the time and the place. We can discover a lot of information based on where and when an incident happened. This could let us talk with a specific person rather than a large group.

Who do they work for? It is important to know if a person is a University employee or student as opposed to a contractor. If the person is a contractor, try to figure out what company they are with. For laboratory personnel, if you know which lab a person works in, that is very useful to us. Even a room number is helpful.



If you have more questions, feel free to reach out to the [Office of Research Safety](#).

Quick Tip 3: Indecent Exposure

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.](#)

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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SAFELab Quarterly Newsletter



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