

# LAB SAFETY QUICK FAQs

JANUARY 2025



## CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S TRANSITION TO A NEW INFECTIOUS WASTE VENDOR?

We welcome Advant-Edge Solutions of Middle Atlantic, Inc. (ASI) as Penn's new infectious waste hauler, replacing Sharps Medical Waste Services (Curtis Bay). ASI will come on campus the week of February 3-7 to exchange reusable sharps waste containers and regulated medical waste collection containers. Details of any changes in the pickup schedule will be communicated to business administrators and lab staff in the upcoming weeks. Business administrators for labs with a current Reusable Sharps Container Program accounts must generate a new PO# and then set up an account at [WASTE PORTAL LINK](#). Any labs looking to opt in to the program should ask their business administrator to generate a PO# and set up an account in the portal as well. Waste containers will not be picked up and emptied until the new account has been generated. Reach out to [Marie-Luise Faber](#) with any questions about the transition or [Advant-Edge Solutions](#) with any questions about setting up the new waste account. Check out the [Biohazardous Waste](#) section of the EHR website for details about infectious waste disposal or the [Reusable Sharps Container Program](#) for details about the program. Please ensure your reusable sharps waste containers are accessible and not hidden or behind locked doors so the exchange can be successful!

## HOW CAN I BEST MAINTAIN THE REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS IN MY LAB?

Refrigerator and freezer maintenance is a key part of laboratory safety compliance. If your lab is interested in increasing freezer maintenance efforts while reducing energy consumption, consider participating in the 2025 Penn Freezer Challenge. The challenge allows labs to lower energy and carbon emissions while competing with labs internationally. The lab with the greatest energy savings wins a summer popsicle party provided by West Philly's Lil Pop Shop. To learn more and participate in the challenge, sign up using the link posted on [Refrigerator & Freezer Inventory and Maintenance](#).

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## I'M THE NEW LAB SAFETY COORDINATOR FOR MY LAB. WHAT EHR'S RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT ME IN MY ROLE?



Lab safety coordinators can self-assign the new “Lab Safety Coordinator (LSC) Training for Research Labs – EHR'S” course on Workday Learning via [this link](#). This training provides LSCs with an overview of the roles and responsibilities associated with the lab safety coordinator position and other important guidance for your role, including lab safety training requirements and emergency information. In addition to the new Workday Learning training, EHR'S recently expanded the landing page for lab safety coordinators to include lab safety coordinator roles and responsibilities and helpful EHR'S resources. Go to [Role of the Lab Safety Coordinator \(LSC\)](#) to explore the revised page in more detail.

## CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT ENERGY WEEK INITIATIVES?



Are you looking for a way to participate in Energy Week at Penn? Do you have Thermo Scientific-brand Ultra-Low Temperature (ULT) freezers in your lab? During Energy Week on February 10-14, 2025, Green Labs is collaborating with ThermoFisher on a ULT Fleet Optimization Event. Get free maintenance on your cold storage unit, attend an educational seminar, and enjoy snacks and prizes. If your lab is interested, learn more and sign up [here](#).

## UPDATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### Role of the Lab Safety Coordinator (updated 11/2024):

Updated to include information on lab safety coordinator training on Workday Learning.

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