

# LAB SAFETY QUICK FAQs

APRIL 2025

Dispose of your unwanted or expired DEA controlled substances at the upcoming Controlled Substances Disposal Event, taking place on May 16th, 2024 from 8:30 A.M. – 2 P.M. in PSOM Stellar Chance Laboratories Conference Room 104. Registration is required, and you'll need to sign up for a time slot. For additional details and to register for the event, see the [announcement](#) on our website.

## CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT PROPER LAB ATTIRE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS?



Proper lab attire means long pants, shirts with sleeves (i.e. no tank-tops) and closed-toe shoes. While shorts and sandals may not be worn into the lab even under a lab coat, you do have the option of wearing shorts to the lab and then getting changed into the appropriate clothing upon arrival. For more information about proper lab attire and personal protective equipment, see [Lab Coat, Gloves and Safety Eyewear Policy](#).

## WE HAVE STUDENTS NOT AFFILIATED WITH PENN WORKING IN OUR LAB THIS SUMMER. WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING DO THEY NEED?

Non-affiliated students (undergraduates or postgraduates from other universities or colleges, or high school students) who plan to work in a Penn laboratory are required to take Introduction to Laboratory and Biological Safety at Penn for Non-Affiliates. EHRS has online and in-person laboratory orientation options. Students must complete orientation before working in a Penn laboratory. High school students must also provide their PI or program a [consent](#) form to work in a Penn laboratory. Go to the EHRS [Non-Affiliate Laboratory Orientation Selection Page](#) for detailed information.

[Click here for archive of Lab Safety Quick FAQs.](#)

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## WHEN SHOULD I CALL EHR'S RATHER THAN EMAIL?

EHR'S has received several emails from individuals reporting immediate concerns in their lab, such as chemical spills or exposures. Always call EHR'S at 215-898-4453 for any immediate concerns, such as:

- exposure/injury
- chemical spill/reaction beyond the lab's ability to handle
- hazardous odor issue, or
- comparable situation where responsiveness is critical.

This number is monitored 24/7.



Report near misses, injuries, incidents, spills cleaned up by your lab, etc. after any response using the [incident reporting form](#) on the EHR'S website. EHR'S encourages researchers to use our general email inbox, [ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu](mailto:ehrs@ehrs.upenn.edu), for non-urgent questions or concerns. Our goal is to respond within one business day. You can read more about emergency response on [our website](#), including links to download [an emergency contacts poster](#) and a [first aid guide for medical emergencies](#) to hang in your lab.

### UPDATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

#### Safety Showers & Eyewashes Program

(updated 2/2025):

Offers guidance on our safety shower and eyewash program, including responsibilities, weekly activation guidance, etc.

#### SOP: Compressed Gases (updated 3/2025)

Updated to include cylinder bracket and clamp options from Airgas.

#### Fact Sheet: Chemical Storage (added 3/2025)

Offers guidance on chemical storage and segregation.

### EYEWASH AND SAFETY SHOWER REMINDERS

- Activate eyewashes weekly to flush the water and reduce risk of microbial contamination or particulate buildup.
- DO NOT activate safety showers. Facilities manages the flushing of this equipment.
- Keeping a [Weekly Activation Log](#) for each eyewash is encouraged to track activation.