

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guide – Biological Hazards

Activity	Y/N	Potential Hazard	Applicable PPE
Working with human blood, body fluids, tissues, or blood borne pathogens (BBP).	If yes	Exposure to infectious material.	Safety goggles with face shield or facemask plus goggles, latex or nitrile gloves, lab coat or gown.
Working with preserved animal and/or human specimens.	If yes	Exposure to infectious material or preservatives.	Safety glasses or goggles, protective gloves such as light latex or nitrile for unpreserved specimens (select protective glove for preserved specimens according to preservative used), lab coat or gown.
Working with radioactive human blood, body fluids, or blood borne pathogens (BBP).	If yes	Cell damage, potential spread of radioactive contaminants, or potential BBP exposure.	Safety glasses (goggles for splash hazard), light latex or nitrile gloves, lab coat or gown.
Working with agents or recombinant DNA classified as Biosafety Level 1 (BSL-1).	If yes	Eye or skin irritation.	Safety glasses or goggles for protection from splash or other eye hazard, light latex or nitrile gloves for broken skin or skin rash, lab coat or gown.
Manipulation of cell lines, viruses, bacteria, or other organisms classified as Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2).	If yes	Exposure to infectious material, particularly through broken skin or mucous membranes.	Safety glasses or goggles for protection from splash or other eye hazard, light latex or nitrile gloves, lab coat or gown.
Manipulation of infectious materials classified as Biosafety Level 2 facility using BSL-3 practices (BSL-2+).	If yes	Exposure to infectious materials with high risk of exposure by contact or mucous membranes.	Safety glasses or goggles for protection from splash or other eye hazard, light latex or nitrile gloves (double), lab coat or disposable gown (preferred), surgical mask.
Manipulation of infectious materials classified as Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3).	If yes	Exposure to infectious materials with high risk of exposure, particularly through the inhalation route.	Safety glasses or goggles for protection from splash or other eye hazard, light latex or nitrile gloves (double), full disposable gown or Tyvek suite (preferred), respirator, shoe cover or dedicated shoe.
Working with live animals (Animal Biosafety Level 1, ABL-1).	If yes	Animal bites, allergies.	Safety glasses or goggles for protection from splash or other eye hazard, light latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves for broken skin or skin rash, lab coat or gown. Consider need for wire mesh glove.
Working with live animals (Animal Biosafety Level 2).	If yes	Animal bites, exposure to infectious material, allergies.	Safety glasses or goggles for protection from splash or other eye hazard, light latex, nitrile or vinyl gloves, lab gown, hair cover, shoe covers, surgical mask. Consider need for wire mesh glove.