



Andrew S. Douglas
Vice Dean for Faculty

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To: KSAS/WSE laboratory instructors

From: John Toscano, Vice Dean for Science & Research Infrastructure (KSAS)
Andrew Douglas, Vice Dean for Faculty (WSE)

Re: Personal protective equipment for teaching laboratories

A recent incident in WSE involved alleged injury to a student who ignored the instructor's directions to wear appropriate personal protective equipment during a laboratory operation. All laboratory instructors should take note of the following:

1. Johns Hopkins University requires students in teaching laboratories to wear protective equipment and appropriate apparel (e.g. long pants, closed-toe shoes, etc.) specified as necessary by the university, department, instructor(s) and/or teaching assistant(s).
2. Laboratory instructors are responsible for determining what protective equipment is necessary in the context of their particular discipline and laboratory operations, consistent with university and department policy. Instructors who would like assistance with this task should contact Dr. Daniel Kuespert, Homewood Laboratory Safety Advocate, at x6-5525 or dkuespert@jhu.edu, or the JHU Department of Health, Safety, and Environment at x6-8798.
3. Students who are found not to be wearing appropriate protective equipment, including appropriate apparel, footwear, etc., should be reminded of the policy and asked to use the protective equipment/wear appropriate apparel immediately. Students unwilling or unable to immediately comply with this direction shall be denied access to the laboratory until compliance is forthcoming.
4. Laboratory instructors and teaching assistants are responsible for enforcing this policy rigorously in laboratories under their direction. Additional penalties for repeated or egregious student noncompliance with protective equipment and apparel guidelines are at the discretion of the instructor and department and may include, but are not limited to, grade penalties, barring the student from the laboratory permanently or for a defined period, or referral to the Dean of Student Life for disciplinary action.

In practice, these guidelines mean that students must wear appropriate safety gear and apparel at all times during laboratory work. Instructors should not hesitate to deny students access to the laboratory if safety equipment is deliberately or repeatedly not worn.

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