



Safety in the teaching laboratory is the goal at Texas A&M University. Implementation of safety procedures is not intended to create a restrictive environment, but rather to assist in the safe conduct of research and teaching activities involving possibly hazardous materials. The rules are stated to help educators maintain safe working conditions and reduce the chance of exposure to biohazards.

FOR LABORATORY DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS

- A comprehensive set of biosafety guidelines for work with many human pathogens can be found in the Biosafety Level 2 section of the CDC/NIH Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories manual, the Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in Human and Animal Medical Diagnostic Laboratories MMWR Supplement, the Guidelines for Biosafety Laboratory Competency MMWR Supplement, and the Public Health Agency of Canada's pathogen data safety sheets (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/lab-bio/res/psds-ftss/index-eng.php>).
- Either non-pathogenic or attenuated bacterial strains should be used when possible, especially in teaching laboratories. This practice will help reduce the risk of students and/or their family members becoming ill.
- People working with infectious agents must be aware of potential hazards and trained and proficient in the practices and techniques required for handling such agents safely.
- Educators should train all people working in the laboratory on the symptoms of infection and advise them to call their health care provider if they or a family member have any of these symptoms.
- All students and employees using the laboratory should be trained in biosafety practices.
- Ensure that hand washing sinks have soap and paper towels. Require students and employees to wash their hands before leaving the laboratory.
- Do not allow lab coats to leave the microbiology laboratory, except to be cleaned by the institution.
- Do not allow food, drinks, or personal items like car keys, cell phones, and mp3 players to be used while working in the laboratory or placed on laboratory work surfaces.
- Provide students with dedicated writing utensils, paper, and other supplies at each laboratory station. These items should not be allowed to leave the laboratory.