Title: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Principle:
Personal protective equipment is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee to protect him/her from a hazard. The laboratory will have ppe available to all employees.

Procedure:

A. **Location of PPE in the Laboratory**

Clean laboratory coats are each employees resposiblility. Gloves are stored in each lab section with the general inventory. Additional PPE is stored in each section as needed.

B. **Use of PPE**

1. **Eye protection (glasses/goggles/eye shields)**

Types. Glasses must have side bars or molded side pieces which cover both front and sides of the eyes. Goggles and eye shields must be secured snugly against the face and cover the eyes completely. They may fasten with elastic or velcro.

Proper use. Use whenever splashes, spray, spatter, droplets, or aerosols of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and there is a potential for eye contamination. Use whenever handling hazardous chemicals. Use for spill clean-up of biohazards and chemicals. Full face masks may be used instead of eye protection alone.

2. **Gloves**

Types. Disposable (single use) gloves may be vinyl or non-latex. Utility gloves are optimal.

Proper use. Use when there is potential for the hands to have direct skin contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, and when handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Use when the potential for contact with toxic material exists. Use for spill clean-up or disposal of biohazards and chemicals. Use whenever handling radioactive material. Do not use disposable gloves when visibly soiled, torn, punctured, or when their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.

Do not wash or disinfect disposable gloves for re-use. Do not use utility gloves when cracked, peeled, discolored, torn, punctured or exhibit other signs of deterioration.

3. **Laboratory coats**

Types. Laboratory coats of cotton/blend fabric must be worn for general use. Semipermeable paper laboratory coats are provided occasionally for temporary use.

Proper use. Wear laboratory coats fully snapped or buttoned. Use when there is a potential for soiling of clothes with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Use whenever handling chemicals and reagents, including storage, preparation, and pipetting. Use whenever handling radioactive chemicals. Use for spill clean-up or disposal or biohazards and chemicals. Do not use if contaminated with biological or chemical material. Laboratory coats soiled with blood or body fluids are placed in bags that prevent leakage and then placed in the laundry hamper. Laboratory coats contaminated with significant amounts of chemical should be discarded if the fabric is destroyed; if the laboratory coat is still usable, it should be rinsed out before placing in the laundry.

4. **Face shields**

Types. Face shields must fully cover the face above the eyes and down past the mouth; they must fasten securely to the head. Plastic or glass shields are acceptable.

Proper use. Use whenever splashes, spray, spatter, droplets, or aerosols of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and there is a potential for eye, nose, or mouth contamination. Use for spill clean-up of biohazards and chemicals.

5. **Face masks**

Types. Any of the aerosol-protecting, disposable, non-sterile, face masks is acceptable. They may tie behind the head or loop over the ears. The N-95 masks are used when the possibility of infectious materials are present (i.e., TB). In the Frozen Section room, the N-95 masks are used for every case due to the unknown constituents of the specimens.

Proper use. Use whenever splashes, spray, spatter, droplets, or aerosols of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and there is a potential for nose or mouth contamination. Use with eye protection for full face protection of biological hazards.

6. **Fluid-proof aprons or gowns**

Types. Disposable plastic aprons, vinyl or polyethylene "lab" apron, and fluid-resistant disposable isolation gowns are available.

Proper use. Use fluid-proof apron or gown, in addition to laboratory coat, when there is a potential for splashing or spraying of blood or other potentially infectious materials. Use "lab" apron or disposable fluid-proof gown or apron, in addition to laboratory coat, when there is a potential for splashing or spill of hazardous chemical, e.g., preparation of reagents from concentrated acid or base.

Written by: Heather Currens, SCT (ASCP), 12/13/2008

Revised by: Gail Zander, CT (ASCP), 8/18/2012

References: GEN.74200

Approval of Procedure:

Medical Director Signature: M. Scott Lucia, MD

Date: 8/29/12

ANNUAL SIGNATURE REVIEW

PROCEDURE TITLE: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Signature on this page insures that each procedure has been reviewed annually. Any changes will be reflected on the procedure by the revised date. GEN.73200

MEDICAL DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE	DATE
M. Scott Lucia, MD	M. Scott Lucia	8/29/12
	M. Scott Lucia	3/24/14