

**Parent/Legal Guardian Informed Consent and
Permission to Work in Florida Atlantic University Laboratories**
(Required for individuals under the age of eighteen)

RETURN THIS COMPLETED PACKAGE TO: **FAU Environmental Health & Safety** at ehs@fau.edu

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) conducts cutting edge scientific research and is dedicated to providing a healthy and safe environment for its faculty, staff, students and visitors, including minors participating in FAU programs. However, scientific research involves exposure to various hazards. When deciding to allow your child to participate in research projects conducted in FAU laboratories and animal facilities, you need to be aware of the potential hazards he or she may encounter. The following information provides the most common potential hazards but is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all potential hazards.

Definitions

Allergens – substances capable of producing an allergic reaction.

Carcinogens – substances capable of producing cancer.

Pathogens – bacteria, viruses, Prions, fungi, parasites capable of causing diseases.

Recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid – DNA/RNA that has been genetically engineered (altered), usually incorporating material from more than one species of organism.

Transgenic – an organism that has had genes from another organism inserted into its genes.

Toxins – poisonous substances produced by living organisms, plants and animals.

Zoonotic diseases – diseases that can be passed from animals to humans.

Potential Hazards

Your child's research project may involve one or more of the following potential hazards. A table is attached with examples. You can contact the lab manager or Environmental Health and Safety to obtain further information on specific hazards that may be used or encountered in the research laboratory.

Animals – can bite, scratch, and transmit zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, toxoplasmosis, pox virus, cat bite fever, rat bite fever, and various parasitic infections or release allergens.

Biological Materials – Pathogens (Bacteria, viruses, prions, parasites, fungi, etc.), materials (human, animal or plant tissue, fluids, cells, cell lines, etc.), toxins (e.g. saxitoxin, microcystin), or recombinant/synthetic nucleic acids. These can cause infections, disease and/or hazardous outcomes as a result of exposure.

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Chemicals – can be unstable, making them reactive and prone to explosion. Potential injuries include skin and eye burns, respiratory problems, allergic reactions, skin, eye, and mucous membrane irritation, and illnesses.

Gas cylinders/compressed gasses – gas cylinders with compressed gasses can explode, causing injury from high speed projectiles. Released gasses can cause eye and skin irritations, respiratory problems, light-headedness, asphyxiation and fainting.

Lasers – device that emits light (electromagnetic radiation) and can cause eye and skin damage.

Mechanical/electrical equipment and instrumentation – can cause electrocution, burns, cuts, scrapes and injuries from pinch points. High noise levels can cause hearing loss.

Radiation/irradiation – can cause skin and eye damage, cellular damage and long-term health problems.

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISKS, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND, and INITIALED the Laboratory Rules and Potential Hazard Information Sheet describing the potential risks and dangers associated with my child’s research project. I fully understand that there are potential risks and hazards associated with exposure to hazardous materials or substances.

I AGREE TO ALLOW my minor child to work in FAU laboratories and freely accept and assume all associated risks and hazards. I ALSO AGREE AND UNDERSTAND that my child’s research project may be suspended at any time, at the discretion of Florida Atlantic University and its officers, agents, and employees, if the safety of my child, FAU employees and/or other volunteers at FAU become a concern.

I, for myself and my estate, heirs, administrators, executors, and assigns, hereby release and hold harmless the State of Florida, the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees, and their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and volunteers (collectively, the “Releases”), from any and all liability and responsibility whatsoever, however caused, for any and all damages, claims, or causes of action that I, my estate, heirs, administrators, executors, or assigns may have for any loss, illness, personal injury, death, or property damage arising out of, connected with, or in any manner pertaining to my child’s work in FAU laboratories, whether caused by the negligence of Releases or otherwise. I further hereby agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Releases from any judgment, settlement, loss, liability, damage, or costs, including court costs and attorney fees that Releases may incur.

In signing this agreement, I acknowledge and represent that I have read and understand it and that I sign it voluntarily and for full and adequate consideration, fully intending to be bound by the same.

Printed Name of Minor Child

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

I have read, understand, and will adhere to the FAU EH&S “Minors in Research Laboratories or Animal Facilities” Policy. I understand that failure to comply with this Policy is dangerous to my health and safety and that I may be removed from the facility immediately for any failures or deviations in compliance.

Signature of Minor

Date

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Potential Hazard Information Sheet

Definition	Hazards	Health Effects	Examples
Chemicals	Refined Compound that could be in the form of a solid, liquid or gas. These may or may not be hazardous. Some compounds may have numerous hazard classifications (flammable, toxin, and carcinogen)	Carcinogens: may cause some sort of cancer with long term exposure – usually many years in the future.	Benzene
		Teratogen: shown to affect the reproductive system of males and females and may cause birth defects in the developing fetus.	Alcohol, Thalidomide, X-rays
		Neurotoxins: may affect the nervous system.	Ethidium Bromide, snake venom
		Flammables: will burn or explode	Acetone, Xylene, Alcohol
		Reactive: will react explosively	Peroxides, Acrylamide
		Corrosives: will cause tissue damage with contact through inhalation, eye, skin, etc.	Acids and bases
		Toxins: may cause illness or death from exposure	Cyanide
Compressed gases	High-pressure cylinders that hold gases. These are usually large and heavy. Gas may be harmless, toxic, corrosive, or flammable.	Explosive hazard if ruptured. Asphyxiant hazard if gas if vented into the workplace and displaces oxygen.	Asphyxiant: Nitrogen, Helium, and other non-oxygen gas. Flammable: Hydrogen, Oxygen Toxic: Ammonia
Radiation and Radioactive Materials	High energy particles (alpha and beta) or photon (X-rays, gamma).	Tissue and organ damage with high doses	Uranium, Phosphorus32, Sulfur35, X-rays
Physical Hazards	Hazards from noise, machinery, heat, cold, etc.	Tissue damage, hearing loss	Scrapes, cuts Cold: liquid Nitrogen, dry ice Heat: Burners
Lasers	Light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation	Eye damage and possible skin damage	Class IIIB and IV lasers and open beam laser operation
Biological Agents	Living organisms or products of living organisms such as Viruses, Bacteria, Fungi, Prions, and Parasites.	Risk Group 1 – No hazard	Baker's Yeast and E. coli K12
		Risk Group 2 – Mild to severe illness	Influenza, Polio, Salmonella
		Risk Group 3 – Severe illness and possible death	Tuberculosis, HIV and West Nile Virus

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Definition	Hazards	Health Effects	Examples
	<p>Hazards from exposure to these agents are organism dependent and can range from mild treatable to severe untreatable.</p> <p>Classification of hazard in four groups called Risk Groups with Risk Group 1 as the least hazardous and Risk Group 4 as the highest hazard. Work with Risk Group 3 agents is dependent upon agent and risk assessment.</p> <p>Work with Risk Group 4 agents is not permitted at FAU.</p>	<p>Risk Group 4 – Deadly disease, can easily travel from one person to another.</p>	<p>Hemorrhagic fever viruses</p>
<p>Recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid</p>	<p>Genetically modified organisms with variations in genes within the organism</p>	<p>Often unknown consequences once introduced to the human body</p>	<p>Plasmids and Viral Vectors (e.g. Adeno and Adeno-associated viruses)</p>
<p>Toxins – Microbial, Plant and Animal</p>	<p>Poisons produced by plants, living organisms or animals</p>	<p>Tissue and organ damage or death</p>	<p>Plant – Ricin Animal – Fish and Snake venom Microbial – Staph, Tetanus</p>

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RULES FOR MINORS WORKING IN LABORATORIES AND ANIMAL FACILITIES

1. Never work alone in any laboratory environment without direct, immediate adult supervision from the sponsor or someone designated by the sponsor.
2. Always wear the personal protective equipment as directed and dispose of it appropriately. This personal protective equipment (PPE) includes goggles, gloves, coats/gowns, and other face/body protection as dictated by the hazard being worked with or around. Always remove PPE when leaving the work area.
3. Always follow the instructions of the sponsor or laboratory supervisor.
4. Always report any accident (regardless of severity) immediately to the sponsor or laboratory supervisor.
5. Always keep your hands away from your face and wash them well with soap and water prior to leaving any laboratory area and after removing gloves.
6. Never eat, drink, chew gum, apply lip balm, or touch contact lenses while in any laboratory environment.
7. Always wear closed-toe shoes while in any laboratory.
8. Always tie back long hair to keep it out of all the hazards listed above.
9. Always wear clothing that reduces the amount of exposed skin.
10. Always ask questions if you don't understand the safety requirements.
11. Always receive proficiency training on project.
12. Always complete Laboratory Safety Training.

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