



Office of Environmental Health and Safety

Safety Guideline

Lab Coat Program

Effective Date: June, 2020

1. Background

The UMASS Boston lab coat program was developed by the Office of Environmental Health and safety (OEHS) to provide researchers and students with a convenient and standardized way to protect themselves from hazardous materials while working in the research labs. The OEHS Laboratory Coat Program (LCP) is professionally managed and is offered to all members of research laboratories.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to familiarize researchers with the lab coat program and the services that are available to them.

There are a number of reasons for using a lab coat:

- ✓ **Barrier protection** – A lab coat provides substantial barrier protection and shields your torso and arms from coming in direct contact with hazardous materials in the laboratory.
- ✓ **Fire protection** – Nomex lab coats are made from fire retardant material.
- ✓ **Cross-contamination prevention** – A lab coat prevents cross-contamination. Keeping your lab coat on in the lab will retain contamination within your laboratory and will reduce or prevent cross contamination into other areas.
- ✓ **Easy removal** – A lab coat can be removed quickly in an emergency. If a fire or dangerous spill occurs, your lab coat can be removed in a matter of seconds to immediately bring distance between you and the hazard.
- ✓ **Safer work space** – A lab coat with an elastic cuff will assist with keeping your sleeves out of your experiment and keep you in control of your workspace. It will also prevent liquids from accidentally running down your arms
- ✓ **Clothing protection** – A Lab coat will protect your clothing from dust, dirt and non-obvious contamination in the laboratory.

3. Procedure

Distribution

Each eligible lab member identified by the Principal investigator (PI) must attend OEHS Lab Safety Training (LST). After the training attendees will be provided a specific type of lab coat based on the hazards present in their research lab. Each person will receive either a white (barrier fluid resistant) or blue (Nomex fire rated, tech shield, fluid resistant) lab coat. Blue coats are typically issued to researchers who use flammable solvents and/or corrosive materials in their research.

Cleaning

All lab members are encouraged to contact OEHS at umbeghs@umb.edu to turn in soiled coats for cleaning on a regular basis. OEHS will bring a clean coat and remove the soiled one. There is no charge for this service to lab members. Lab coats of inactive students should be returned to OEHS so they can be cleaned and placed back into circulation. Lab coats are inspected for damage each time they are serviced and repaired if necessary.

Vivarium

Lab coats used in the vivarium should strictly stay in the facility. Lab coats should be stored in the designated cabinet/area. The ACRF Facility Manager should be contacted for a lab coat in the vivarium. Coats for vivarium use are marked with the letter “V” in red on the front pocket.



Barrier Fluid Resistant



Nomex- Tech Shield Fluid Resistant



Vivarium Barrier Fluid Resistant