

GOWNING AND DE-GOWNING FACT SHEET

To maintain the best quality environment for animals and individuals working with animals, the Animal Resource Facility (ARF) requires that personal protective equipment (PPE) be worn any time an animal room is entered or when handling animals in the ARF. PPE shall include at a minimum a gown, mask, shoe covers, head cover and latex or vinyl gloves. The use of PPE is essential in decreasing the risk of pathogen transmission from room to room within the ARF. The standard operating procedures for gowning and de-gowning are found in Section 5.1 (Protective Clothing) of the *Investigators' Manual for the Care and Use of Animals in Research*. Listed below is a summary of these procedures.

Gowning

Any person working with animals must put on fresh protective clothing each and every time they enter an animal room. Gowning materials are located throughout the ARF. Choose the gowning station closest to the animal room you wish to enter. At a minimum, PPE must include a gown, mask, shoe covers, head cover and latex or vinyl gloves. Shoe covers must be put on just outside the room you are entering, **immediately prior** to entering the room. **Do not** place shoe covers on feet at gowning stations and walk down the hallway with them on. All other PPE may be put on at the gowning station.

- Put on gown, head cover, mask and gloves at gowning station.
- Proceed to the animal room you wish to enter.
- Place shoe covers on **immediately outside** the door to the room you are entering.

De-Gowning - Clean Room

All gowning materials must be removed when you exit an animal room. Shoe covers must be removed **immediately after** stepping out of the room and **before** walking down the hallway. All other gowning materials must be removed at the nearest hallway trash receptacle. **Do not** enter any other room, including the clean cage storage room, wearing dirty gowning materials. **Do not** re-enter any animal room, for any reason, without first putting on fresh gowning materials.

- Remove shoe covers **immediately after** stepping out of animal room.
- Proceed to the nearest trash receptacle and remove all other PPE.
- Put on fresh gowning materials **prior to** entering another animal room.

De-Gowning - Quarantine Room or Housing Areas with Biohazards

Under special housing conditions, including the Quarantine Room and rooms where hazardous materials and/or pathogens are being administered, slightly different de-gowning procedures are required in order to assure potential pathogens are not brought out into the common hallway. All gowning materials must be removed **prior to** exiting, immediately inside the door to the room.

- De-gown at the door **immediately prior to** exiting the room. Before leaving the animal room, all PPE must be removed and discarded in the trash receptacle located just inside the door to the room. **Do not** step into the hallway with any article of PPE. These rooms should be the last rooms entered during the course of the day. It is recommended that you **do not enter/re-enter** a clean animal room after having entered Quarantine.