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Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) outside of Laboratories

EHS has had a number of complaints from the laboratory community regarding the use of gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) outside of laboratories. While it is important to wear gloves while performing laboratory manipulation of potentially hazardous materials, it is equally important to remove gloves before contacting “clean” areas such as food area surfaces, or common equipment such as telephones, computer keyboards, water fountains and photocopiers.

You should not wear gloves outside the laboratory, as you could possibly contaminate surfaces you touch such as doorknobs and elevator buttons. Remove your gloves even if you believe they are not contaminated out of respect for others who might not know if you have handled hazardous materials with your gloved hand(s).

Please communicate this to your laboratory staff. Consider posting a reminder at the exit door to your lab so that you do not wear lab gloves into common areas of your building.

Thank you for your cooperation.