

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS



Personal Protective Equipment
and General Lab Attire
Safe Science is Good Science

Caltech



Personal protective equipment (PPE) helps to minimize exposure to hazards that may cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.

These injuries and illnesses could result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

- Basic protection for most laboratories includes safety glasses, shoes, lab coats, and proper shirts/pants. [Additional PPE may be required.](#)
- **Closed-toed shoes are essential in a laboratory to protect yourself from chemical splashes or broken glass.**
- Chemical splash goggles or face shields should be worn when there is a risk of splashing hazardous materials or flying particles.
- If respirators are to be used for protection against airborne contaminants, equipment listed and approved by NIOSH may be used if properly selected and fit-tested as part of a complete [respiratory protection program](#).
- Any laboratory operation that exposes laboratory personnel to a significant noise source of 85 decibels or greater for an 8-hour average duration should utilize hearing protection in the form of plugs or muffs.