

Assessment for Lab Work Performed by Minors

Minors are not allowed in high-risk areas. Access to research areas may be prohibited due to reasons of safety, security, or regulatory compliance. Minors must be directly supervised at all times by the principal investigator (PI) or a trained staff member designated by the PI. Minors are not allowed to be alone in a research laboratory and are not permitted to have their own building or room access.

Risk Communication and Training

- Minors in the lab shall take all required lab safety training.
- Minors in the lab shall be directly trained on assigned procedures by PI or experienced lab staff.
- Minors in the lab shall be made aware of laboratory emergency protocols.
- Minors in the lab shall be given access to Safety Data Sheets for all materials used in procedures they will perform.

Personal Protective Equipment

Minors are not allowed to perform tasks that require respiratory protection.

- Minors in the lab and any accompanying adults shall be provided with and wear appropriate PPE when in the research area.

Chemical Hazards

The PI must place restrictions on the use and quantities of all hazardous chemicals to be used by the minor, including corrosives, flammable liquids, carcinogens, and toxic substances. These restrictions must be documented by the PI. Minors are prohibited from handling or working in the vicinity of highly reactive and unstable chemicals. Minors are also prohibited from working with highly toxic chemicals that fall into GHS Acute Toxicity Hazard Class 1 and 2 or International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Group 1 or 2A carcinogens.

- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve the use of chemicals that are toxic, carcinogenic, teratogenic, mutagenic, or sensitizing.
- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve the use of chemicals that are corrosive
- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve the use of chemicals that are flammable
- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve the use of chemicals that are an environmental hazard

Biological Hazards

Under Wisconsin state law, minors may not work with infectious agents (i.e., bacteria, mycoplasma, fungi, parasites, or viruses that can cause illness in humans) that are introduced for use, study, or production. Minors are prohibited from entering or working in research spaces designated BSL3, with BSL3 practices, BSL2-enhanced, BSL2+, research spaces where select agents are used or stored, or research spaces where the Institutional Biosafety Committee has restricted access.

- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve organisms or materials that may provoke an allergic response.
- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve organisms or materials that would pose an increased risk to a student or household member that is immunocompromised.
- Y N: The assigned procedures may involve materials that could carry bloodborne pathogens, such as blood or bodily fluids.

Radiological Hazards

Minors are a vulnerable population requiring additional protection from radiological hazards. The Office of Radiation Safety relies on communication from labs and departments to identify when a minor will be present on campus with plans to work with or around radioactive material. An evaluation can then be performed to ensure the work remains safe while conforming with all mandatory regulations. Contact the Office of Radiation Safety (RadiationSafety@wisc.edu) if answering "Yes" to the question below.

- Y N: The assigned procedures involve exposure to ionizing radiation directly due to the nature of the protocol or indirectly based on the work space in which it occurs.

Physical Hazards

Hazardous materials present within laboratories are often the focus of a risk assessment. However, minors have limited experience in a wide range of physical hazards which may be equally or more dangerous than those covered above.

- Y N: The assigned procedures involve high pressure or vacuum.
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve extreme temperatures (high or low).
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve open flames.
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve working with glassware or sharps (scalpel, needles, etc).
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve electrical hazards.
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve non-ionizing radiation (UV, laser, IR, etc).
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve work with power driven machinery.
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve work in facilities with limited egress.
- Y N: The assigned procedures involve heavy lifts.

Unique Hazards

This risk assessment form is not intended to be encompassing of all potential hazards which may come to pass at the diversity of research sites at UW-Madison. Below is a section which may be used to document additional risks which have been assessed by lab staff ahead of the visit by minors which were not captured above.

Acknowledgement

I have completed a risk review of all the above items and have contacted EH&S with any concerns or questions:

PI / Lab Manager Signature: _____

Date: _____