

Classroom / Lab Safety Regulations Policy and Procedure

**MHPC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

---

Subject: Safety

Number: 513

**Title:** Classroom/Lab Safety Regulations

Date: 5/9/2022

Reviewed/Revised: 5/9/2022

**Purpose:** To ensure that current and prospective students have access to accurately to safety Regulations associated with the MHPC OTA Program.

**Policy:** MHPC recognizes the importance of practice and study through laboratory experiences. Lab experiences will be planned by course instructors teaching courses with a corresponding lab. A lab instructor will be trained each week in the appropriate dissemination of information for on-site labs. Labs are planned and provided in order to offer clinical simulations, case studies, and practice and testing of patient care skills.

**Procedure:**

**Classroom/Lab Safety Regulations**

The following safety regulations are posted in the program lab. They are designed to assure compliance with OSHA Safety Requirements. These should be regularly reviewed by program faculty and students, and should be followed explicitly:

1. **Inspection of Therapeutic Equipment:** All therapeutic equipment in the lab will be inspected for safety, and calibrated (as appropriate) annually. Supplies required for use of the equipment will also be inspected when appropriate. Inspection records are filed in the Program Director's office.
2. **Failure of Inspection Standards:** Any piece of equipment or electrical outlet that fails to meet inspection standards is immediately removed from service. The Program Director will be responsible for initiating and monitoring repair. No faculty member or student is permitted to use equipment or outlets that have been removed from service.
3. **Malfunction of Equipment:** Any faculty member or student who discovers a malfunction is responsible for immediately reporting that malfunction to the Program Director, who assumes responsibility for removing the equipment from service and initiating repair procedures.
4. **Chemicals Use:**
  - a. All chemicals in use in the program lab will be held in marked containers labeled with use and safety instructions as necessary. All such instructions are to be followed explicitly.
  - b. No chemical should ever be placed in a container bearing a label of another chemical.
  - c. All chemicals will be stored or disposed of under conditions as recommended by the manufacturer.

d. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will be obtained and retained on all chemicals; they will be held in a notebook labeled for that purpose and located in the program lab.

5. **First-Aid Kit:** A first aid kit is located in the classroom storage area and is stocked with appropriate supplies.

6. **Cleaning of Treatment Tables and Mats:** All treatment tables and mats will be cleaned with a disinfectant solution after use.

7. **Universal Body Substance Precautions:**

a. Hands should be washed between sessions of working with different classmates or faculty members.

b. Gloves must be worn if a student or instructor has unhealed skin lesions on his/her hands. All used gloves must be disposed of in a container for regulated waste.

c. In the event that any surface in the lab becomes contaminated with body fluids, program faculty will contact maintenance for assistance in cleaning up the spill.

8. **Safety Precautions:** Course instructors ensure the safety of their students by demonstrating clearly the laboratory activity to be performed, as well as observing students closely as they perform this activity. This helps the student to learn the skill properly and protect future patients as well as the student and his or her classmates. Safety is also ensured by having each student complete competencies with each skill.

### **Face protection: masks**

Masks are used for three primary purposes in healthcare settings.

1) Masks are placed on healthcare personnel to protect them from contact with infectious material from patients e.g., respiratory secretions and sprays of blood or body fluids, consistent with Standard Precautions and Droplet Precautions.

2) Masks are placed on healthcare personnel when engaged in procedures requiring sterile technique to protect patients from exposure to infectious agents carried in a healthcare worker's mouth or nose.

3) Masks are placed on coughing patients to limit potential dissemination of infectious respiratory secretions from the patient to others (i.e., Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette).

Masks may be used in combination with goggles to protect the mouth, nose and eyes, or a face shield may be used instead of a mask and goggles.

The mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes are susceptible portals of entry for infectious agents, as can be other skin surfaces if skin integrity is compromised (e.g., by acne, dermatitis). Therefore, use of PPE to protect these body sites is an important component of Standard Precautions. The protective effect of masks for exposed healthcare personnel has been demonstrated. Procedures that generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions (e.g., endotracheal suctioning, bronchoscopy, invasive vascular procedures) require either a face shield (disposable or reusable) or mask and goggles. The wearing of masks, eye protection, and face shields in specified circumstances when blood or body fluid exposures are likely to occur is mandated by the OSHA Blood borne Pathogens Standard. Appropriate PPE should be selected based on the anticipated level of exposure.

### **10. Face protection: goggles/face shields**

Guidance on eye protection for infection control has been published. The eye protection chosen for specific work situations (e.g., goggles or face shield) depends upon the circumstances of exposure.