

UAB SAFETY SHORT

No Protective Gloves Outside the Laboratory

Gloves used in chemical, biological, or radiological work areas must be removed before leaving the laboratory.

Inside the lab, gloves protect the wearer from potential exposure by creating a physical separation between the skin and hazardous materials. However, wearing gloves outside the laboratory can pose contamination risks to others and can make others uncomfortable or concerned about whether the gloves have contacted hazardous materials, even if the gloves appear “clean.”

To maintain safety and reduce concerns:

- Remove gloves when exiting the laboratory. ([Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 1910.1030\(d\)\(3\)\(vii\)](#), [BMBL BSL-1 Standard Microbial Practices](#)). No gloves in elevators, hallways, or corridors.
- Avoid wearing gloves when answering phones, opening uncontaminated equipment, or touching door handles.
- Samples that are properly packaged for transport outside the lab should not require gloves for handling. Please refer to appropriate safety manuals (e.g., Table 8.1 in the [UAB Biosafety Manual](#)) for how to properly transport samples between laboratories on campus.

These simple practices minimize the potential for accidental exposures and eliminates the need for gloves when traveling between laboratories.

Report unsafe conditions or any safety concerns to UAB EH&S by visiting the [EH&S homepage](#) and clicking on “Report a Concern”.