

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY SAFETY (2026-2027)

The microorganisms used in this microbiology course are potentially pathogenic to humans. The safety of every student depends on the conscientious observation of rules that must be followed by everyone working in the laboratory.

The following rules must be observed at all times:

1. **Wear** a laboratory coat and protective gloves if indicated, at all times while in the laboratory classroom. **Long hair must be securely tied** back to prevent contact with open flames, moving equipment, or biological samples.
2. **Wear closed-toe shoes** that completely cover the top of the foot. Sandals, flip-flops, high heels, and canvas/mesh shoes are prohibited due to the risk of chemical spills, biohazardous splashes, or dropped glassware.
3. **Do not smoke, eat, or drink** in the laboratory under any circumstances.
4. **Decontaminate** any spilled biological material immediately by thoroughly wetting it with a disinfectant, and report the incident to the instructor.
5. **Report immediately** any accident or spill that may lead to a laboratory-acquired infection.
6. **Maintain microscopes properly.** At the end of each laboratory period, carefully clean the oil from the objective and condenser lenses. Align the low-power dry objective with the condenser, and lower the stage.
7. **Dispose of** all used glassware and cultures in the appropriate designated receptacles upon completing your tasks.
8. **Wash hands thoroughly** with soap and water, and use an antiseptic disinfectant before leaving the laboratory.
9. **Discard** refuse of any kind only into the specific containers provided for that purpose.
10. **Ensure all burners are turned off** at the end of the laboratory period; double-check that the handles on all gas outlets are in the fully closed (off) position.
11. **Sterilize** the inoculating loop or needle by heating it until red hot both before and after each use.
12. **Always flame** the inoculating loop or needle before laying it down.
13. **Place all culture tubes** (broths or slants) in an upright position in a test tube rack. Never lay them down on the bench or lean them against other objects, as they may roll off and break.
14. **Label all culture containers** clearly before incubation with the following details: (a) your initials or last name, (b) the name of the organism or the number of the unknown sample, and (c) the date.
15. **Label Petri dishes** on the bottom half of the plate, not the lid. Unless otherwise directed, always incubate Petri dishes in an inverted (upside-down) position.
16. **Maintain short, natural fingernails**, as working in a biohazardous laboratory requires strict adherence to safety and aseptic protocols. Long or artificial nails prevent proper hand disinfection and risk tearing disposable protective gloves. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in non-admittance to the laboratory, and the absence will be treated as unexcused (at the student's fault).