

SAFETY RULES FOR MICROBIOLOGY PRACTICAL CLASSES

1. **Outerwear and all unnecessary personal belongings must be left in the cloakroom.** Students may enter the laboratory only after putting on a disposable protective gown.
2. **Personal belongings brought into the microbiology laboratory** (e.g. bags, books, notebooks) must not be placed on the floor. They should be kept only in designated areas where the risk of contamination with infectious material is minimized.
3. During microbiology practical classes, students work in groups of **9–10 at designated laboratory benches**. Work should be performed while seated, with unnecessary movement and conversation kept to a minimum.
4. Due to contact with potentially infectious material, **all laboratory work must be carried out with particular care**. Do not touch your eyes or mouth or moisten your fingers with saliva when turning pages, as these are simple routes of exposure to infectious material. Plates and tubes containing infectious material must never be placed on notebooks or books.
5. **Eating and drinking and the use of mobile phones are strictly prohibited during practical classes.**
6. **Infectious clinical specimens must never be handled with bare hands. Protective gloves must always be worn when handling such material.**
7. Due to the nature of clinical microbiology practical classes, **long or painted fingernails, artificial nails, and long hair that is not tied back are strictly prohibited.**
8. As work involves the use of **lit laboratory burners**, particular attention must be paid to fire safety. Draughts and air currents must be avoided during work; therefore, windows and doors must not be opened. Long hair must be tied back. After completing the work, gas burners must be turned off using **both safety valves**.
9. **Any accident or exposure** (e.g. a cut, burn, spillage of infectious material onto the floor, laboratory bench or protective gown, or infectious material entering the mouth or eyes) must be reported to the instructor immediately so that appropriate safety measures can be taken as quickly as possible (e.g. disinfection, antiseptic treatment, wound dressing).
10. At the end of the practical class, **used glass materials** (e.g. microscope slides prepared by students) must be placed in a container with disinfectant. Other materials (e.g. bacterial cultures, fibrous materials) must be discarded in the designated container according to the instructor's directions.
11. **Microscopes must be thoroughly cleaned of immersion oil and covered with their protective covers after use.**
12. After the practical class, **disposable protective gowns must be removed, rolled up and placed in the infectious-waste containers** (large red containers located near the exit from the laboratory). **Students must not leave the laboratory while wearing a protective gown.**
13. After completing the practical class, students must **clean their work area, wash their hands and disinfect them** according to the instructions displayed next to the sinks.
14. **No cultures, clinical specimens, materials under investigation, or microscope preparations may be removed from the laboratory.**