

Minors in Laboratories Safety Guidelines

The University of Notre Dame is committed to creating a safe environment for minors who visit, tour, volunteer, or work in laboratories. This document is intended to provide guidelines on appropriate safety measures for minors in all laboratories at the University of Notre Dame. These guidelines apply when minors visit, tour, volunteer, or work in ND laboratories that contain any of the following:

- Radiation hazards (e.g., radioactive materials, radiation-producing machines, lasers, and high power microwave or radio wave sources)
- Biological Hazards (e.g., infectious microorganisms at BSL1 or higher or potentially infectious materials)
- Hazardous chemicals (e.g., flammables, corrosives, reactive materials, toxic agents, sensitizers, and irritants)
- Chemical-physical hazards (e.g., compressed gasses, cryogenes, explosives)
- Physical hazards (e.g., extreme temperatures, glassware under vacuum, high power audible sound or ultrasound, pressurized vessels, or machinery)

Laboratories that do not contain any hazards listed above are exempt from these guidelines.

Additionally, minors who are related to and/or are guests of ND employees are not permitted to accompany employees in laboratories unless they are enrolled in a formal university program that allows for them to do so.

Definitions

Minor: Any person under 18 years of age who is not enrolled at the University.

Laboratory: Any space used for scientific or educational activities that may involve hazardous materials and/or equipment, including teaching laboratories and research laboratories.

Particularly Hazardous Substance (PHS): OSHA laboratory standard defines a PHS as a select carcinogen, reproductive toxin, or substance with a high degree of acute toxicity.

Youth Program: Any University program, event, or activity occurring on or off campus in which one or more Minors are under the supervision of Notre Dame employees, volunteers, or students. Supervision by Notre Dame employees, volunteers, or students is expected if there is no parent, legal guardian, or third-party chaperone present during the program, event, or activity. This includes virtual programs when the parent, legal guardian, or third party is not actively participating in the activity and providing supervision.

If all Minor participants are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or third-party chaperone, the program, event, or activity is not considered a Youth Program under the [Youth Protection Policy](#).

General Requirements

- Minors must be supervised by PI or alternate supervisor at all times while in the laboratory.
- Minors are not permitted to enter any BSL-3 area nor are they permitted to work with any BSL-3 materials.
- Minors are not permitted to work with (nor observe work with) pyrophoric or other highly reactive materials.
- Minors are not permitted to handle any Particularly Hazardous Substances.
- Minors participating on projects that require additional authorizations must be added to those authorizations, such as, but not limited to, IBC protocol and IACUC protocol.
- PIs who wish to allow minors to work with radioactive materials or lasers must first contact the RSO to discuss the proposal.

Minors Participating in Observation-Only Tour or Visit:

The following are requirements for all minors participating in observation-only tours or visits:

- Complete the annual attestation form in the [Youth Protection Portal](#) acknowledging these requirements.
- The tour or visit is approved by the department head and/or the principal investigator (PI).
- Minors participating in tours or visits have written consent from their parent/guardian in the form of a waiver or permission slip.
- Minors participating in tours or visits are supervised at all times while on the premises by a qualified adult designated for this responsibility.
- Minors participating in tours or visits are provided with and wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for entry by the specific laboratory or facility.
- Minors participating in tours or visits wear appropriate laboratory attire.
- Minors participating in tours or visits do not perform any laboratory activities involving hazardous materials and/or equipment.
- Hazardous materials are properly stored and hazardous equipment is in a safe mode while children and youth are present.
- No experiments or work by lab personnel is actively occurring while the tour is ongoing.

Minors participating in a University of Notre Dame Youth Program:

The following are requirements for Principal Investigators or managers hosting minors as part of University of Notre Dame Youth Program:

- The [Youth Protection Policy](#) and associated [Youth Protection Procedures Manual](#) requirements must be followed which includes: registration with the Office of Institutional Equity, training on youth protection, and screening of staff/volunteers.
- [Register](#) program description and potential labs
- Each participant must fill out **Waiver, Release, and Indemnification Agreement** and **Consent for Emergency Medical or Mental Health Treatment Form**

Minors conducting research in Notre Dame laboratory:

The following are requirements for Principal Investigators hosting minors to perform research (paid or unpaid) in their laboratory:

- The [Youth Protection Policy](#) and the [Employment of Minors Policy](#) requirements must be followed, as applicable.
- Submit **RMS Form 1 - Proposed Project Checklist for Minors Performing Research in Laboratories** in the [Youth Protection Portal](#).
- After RMS approval, submit **Waiver, Release, and Indemnification Agreement(s)** in the [Youth Protection Portal](#).
- After RMS approval, submit **Consent for Emergency Medical or Mental Health Treatment Form** in the [Youth Protection Portal](#).

Relevant Links:

[Youth Protection Policy](#)

[Youth Protection Procedures Manual](#)

[Employment of Minors Policy](#)