



Chemical Exposure Concerns

ASU conducts hazard analysis and employs engineering controls, such as fume hoods, glove boxes, and paint booths and requires that personal protective equipment (PPE) be worn when using specific materials for given tasks. Exposure to chemicals in our lab or work environments should be minimal if individuals are using appropriate engineering controls, performing the tasks correctly, and using the appropriate PPE.

In the event a student, faculty, or staff member self-discloses that they are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or that they have a medical condition that causes them concern when exposed to certain chemicals, the department in question will respond accordingly per their request. At the individual's request the department head will:

- Provide a list of all chemicals and or microorganisms used in the laboratory course or used for a specific occupational task;
- Provide copies of all Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals/products used in the lab or workplace in question;
- Note the quantities of chemicals/products being used;
- Determine the duration of exposure/use;
- List the personal protective equipment recommended to be worn; and
- Include all engineering controls being used to protect individuals from chemical exposure.

The individual concerned should take the provided information to their personal physician to discuss their concerns and have their physician evaluate the risks based on the patient's needs.

Recommend department heads discuss pregnancy or other health concerns with their employees and advise them to obtain a medical consult with their physician to determine if they should continue to work in a laboratory and/or with certain chemicals.

At the beginning of the semester, faculty should advise students that if they have any medical condition that may be impacted by lab work and/or exposure to chemicals, they should consult with their physician, get a note listing what they cannot be exposed to, and then advise the faculty. If any condition, including pregnancy, causes them to not be able to participate then evaluate whether the student should drop the course, can postpone the lab work, or do other activities that take the place of the lab work.

NOTE: Faculty should NOT ask what the condition is but try to accommodate the student.

Recommend the following statement be included in lab orientation/training materials.

“If you are or you think you might be pregnant, if you have a lowered immune response, or if you have any other health concern, consult with your physician before performing any of the laboratory activities and communicate accordingly with your faculty member.”