

Health Science Center Laboratory Safety Guidelines

Laboratory:

The Health Science Center (HSC) houses several teaching and research laboratories used by the three HSC partner institutions: Emplify Health, Western Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Each institution maintains stringent safety standards appropriate to their field of work and employ staff to enforce those standards in their respective laboratory spaces.

- In laboratory spaces used exclusively by one institution, the safety standards of that institution will prevail for staff and visitors.
- When staff are in shared laboratories or common areas, they should follow the safety standards of their own institution.

Safety incidents (e.g., spills, fires, etc.) that impact area(s) or occupants inside or outside of a specific laboratory space must be reported to the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium (LMHSC).

Infectious Waste:

Individual laboratories are responsible for collecting and disposing of their own infectious waste using appropriate disposal containers. Sealed infectious waste containers must be taken to HSC Room 1146B for pickup. Pickups are made multiple times per year and additional pickups can be requested through the LMHSC. Because pickups costs are determined by the number and weight of waste containers, care must be taken to discard ONLY infectious waste items in the containers. HSC Custodial staff will coordinate with the hazardous waste collection contractor and can assist with ordering additional disposal supplies and providing instructions on how to properly seal containers.

Sharps containers located within individual labs are the responsibility of their respective institution. Sharps containers located in the HSC restrooms will be replaced and disposed of by staff who have completed and maintain current annual bloodborne pathogen training. Custodial staff will notify Consortium personnel when a sharps container is approaching capacity. Upon notification, Consortium staff will coordinate with the Western Medical Lab Technician program staff to ensure proper disposal of the sharps container in accordance with Western's established policies.

Reporting on all Safety Incidents:

1. Report to your respective institution as outlined in respective institution safety standards
2. Report to the LMHSC's Executive Director (HSC room 3065)

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