

## MU IBC Glove Use Policy

Gloves should be worn whenever there is a potential for exposure to biological or chemical hazards to protect the researcher. For example, gloves must be worn in all designated Biosafety Level 2 spaces when hands can come into contact with potentially infectious materials, contaminated surfaces or equipment. The following tips will help you develop proper glove practices:

- Prior to use, always inspect gloves for flaws or defects.
- Gloves must be removed and disposed of when they are grossly contaminated, when work with potentially infectious materials is finished and when glove integrity is compromised. Contaminated gloves should be disposed into proper waste container (e.g. orange biohazard bag if contaminated with infectious agents).
- When removing gloves, limit contact with the outer surfaces and always remember to wash hands after glove removal.
- Do not reuse or wash disposable gloves or use them to touch “clean” surfaces such as computer keyboards or telephones.
- When possible, limit the use of gloves outside of lab areas.

### Transfer of agents:

Whenever possible, gloves should be removed when exiting the lab and entering into common areas (e.g. corridors, foyers). Wearing contaminated gloves outside laboratory space can result in exposures to items and surfaces in public and common areas. Transfer of chemical or infectious agents places other investigators, custodial staff members, students and visitors at risk.

There are some circumstances when it is necessary to wear gloves in common areas. When transporting chemicals or infectious agents to another lab, place the sample in a secondary container and place the container on a cart in order to minimize the potential for spills. Use of carts with side walls is strongly recommended. If gloves must be worn in the process, use the “one glove method”. Use the gloved hand to carry the biological materials and the ungloved hand to open doors, push elevator buttons, etc.