



Risk Assessment for Wearing Lab Coats at the Write-up Benches in the Laboratories in the Henry Wellcome Building of Genomic Medicine and Molecular Physiology and OPPF.

The laboratories numbered 1 to 4 in the Henry Wellcome Building of Genomic Medicine and the laboratories in Molecular Physiology and OPPF are designated Biological Containment Level 2 laboratories.

It is mandatory that all laboratory workers wear lab coats whilst conducting laboratory experimental procedures. The wearing of lab coats will protect the wearer from contaminating their skin or normal clothing from accidental spills. Wearing lab coats will ensure that any contamination will be left in the laboratory and not taken to other areas in the building or home at the end of the day.

Due to the lack of office space available for laboratory based researchers, designated benches are used for write-up desks with computers in the main laboratories.

The following risk assessment will outline the hazards and the likelihood of the potential hazards to cause harm to an individual seated at their designated write-up bench whilst not wearing a lab coat.

Hazard – something which can cause harm:

Chemicals
Biological Agents

Risk – the likelihood of hazard causing harm:

The potential for surface contamination hazards present in the laboratories which could cause harm to an individual seated at their write-up bench is low, however, in large research groups it has been noted that more than one other person may be conducting a laboratory experiment at a bench in close proximity to the write-up bench, therefore there is some risk of an accidental spillage occurring.

Conclusions

It is mandatory for researchers to wear lab coats whilst conducting experiments in the laboratories and this will be enforced by the research group supervisors.

It is advised that researchers wear their lab coats whilst seated at the write-up benches inside the laboratories due to the risk of accidental spillages from colleagues conducting experiments nearby. The level of this risk will be dependent upon the number of researchers from the same group working in the laboratory at the same time. The decision to wear lab coats whilst seated at the write-up bench can therefore be made by the group supervisor present.