

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wearing of Protective Gloves Outside the Laboratory

Introduction

A significant amount of the research conducted in the School requires the use of protective gloves, either to prevent biological contamination of samples by the researcher or the protection of the researcher from toxic, corrosive or infectious material.

When gloves become contaminated with biologically hazardous material, it is possible for researchers to then contaminate objects which may be used by other researchers not wearing gloves.

The most likely occurrence of contamination is when researchers need to open doors and activate lift buttons when moving through the building. The committee would like to enact the following regulations within the school.

Policy Proposed

1. Researchers **must not** use laboratory gloved hands to open doors, push lift buttons or use equipment where non-gloved persons may become contaminated.
2. It is strongly recommend that when travelling through the building researchers have one hand ungloved to open doors or activate the lifts.
3. Researchers crossing a corridor between laboratories, where it is not practical to take gloves on and off repeatedly, must ensure that the doors they need to pass through are either open or can be opened without the use of gloved hands.
4. Any objects that have become contaminated by a researcher, must be cleaned with either hypochlorite, Viraclean™ or 70% ethanol as soon as possible.

Regulations accepted by the SBS Health and Safety Committee on 8th June 2004