



Visitor's Information: Laboratory Safety Procedures for Microbial and Chemical Laboratories

Rules for WEST Center Visitors

1. It is required that you remain with your respective tour group while visiting WEST Center. Do not break away from your group to visit other rooms/areas unless accompanied by authorized Pima County or WEST Center personnel.
2. Do not touch any surfaces in the laboratories, including benchtops and equipment, unless authorization and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been granted by WEST Center personnel.
3. Closed-toed shoes and long pants are strongly suggested in the labs. Eye protection will be provided and is required in the high-bay area.
4. The ingestion of food and drinks (including chewing gum), and the application of cosmetics, are not permitted in the labs.

Microbiological Agents Present at WEST Center

Researchers at The University of Arizona WEST Center work with a variety of Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) microbiological agents including infectious viruses, bacteria, and protozoa. BSL-2 organisms are capable of causing moderate illness in healthy individuals, and potentially serious disease in immunocompromised persons. These microorganisms may be transmitted by ingestion, inhalation, and/or via the eyes and skin.

Due to these risks, smoking, food and drink (including chewing gum) are not permitted in the labs. Cosmetics and similar personal care products also must not be applied to the face, skin, or eyes while in the laboratory.

Safety for Visitors to WEST Center

All workspaces and equipment at WEST are routinely sanitized or disinfected prior to use and upon completion of work. **However, all visitors must refrain from touching any surfaces in the labs including benchtops and equipment, unless authorization and the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (i.e. latex/nitrile gloves and lab coat) have been provided by WEST Center personnel.** It is recommended for visitors to wash their hands at the end of the day before leaving the building.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Approval Safety Coordinators.

Contact Phone Numbers: (520) 626-3328, (520) 987-3820, or (520) 971-4163