



# Safety Instruction

## Minors in OSU Laboratories and Shops

### **Introduction:**

Laboratories, shops and spaces housing animals for research are restricted spaces for authorized personnel only, with exceptions for minors and children entering under direct supervision of an [authorized adult](#) as part of a formally organized guided tour or formal/coordinated activity with planned interactions (e.g. internship). Below are safety and health considerations when planning allowable activities with minors in a shop or a laboratory. Guidance related to employees bringing dependent children to the workplace should refer to The Office of University Human Resources, [OSU Work Life](#).

Colleges and departmental units hosting minors on university-controlled property for official sponsored events must fill out a [youth program registration](#).

### **Scope:**

This guidance document applies to all laboratories, laboratory support spaces, animal research facilities and shop spaces at Oregon State University. All employees, volunteers, university students, and contractors, must adhere to these guidelines. This does not apply to undergraduate students under the age of 18. It also does not apply to teaching laboratories, computational laboratories, or laboratories where hazardous materials or equipment are not used or present. Contact EH&S if you are unsure if your laboratory or space falls under the scope of this document.

The department/unit chair or director, shop supervisor, or laboratory PI bear the responsibility for ensuring that this guidance document is followed.

### **Minors in University-Sponsored Events (e.g., interning or working in a lab, hands-on demonstrations):**

Minors are permitted in a laboratory, shop, or other controlled spaces when they are participating in a university-sponsored educational program and the following requirements are met:

- The program is approved by the department, PI responsible and the Office of Youth Safety & Compliance.
- Written consent has been secured from each child's parent or guardian using the university's [Acknowledgement of Risk and Waiver of Liability Form](#).
- Minors participating in the program have received training on the hazardous materials and equipment that they will have potential exposure to, as applicable. The training must be documented and maintained by the laboratory supervisor, program coordinator, and/or EHS via SciShield.
- Minors participating in the program are supervised by an Authorized adult or chaperone.
- Minors must wear [appropriate laboratory attire](#).
- Minors must be provided with and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

### **Minors Participating in Observation-only tour or visit:**

The following is required for all minors participating in observation-only tours or visits into a laboratory or shop:

- Minors must be supervised by an Authorized adult or chaperone.
- Minors participating in tours must be provided with and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) required for entry by the specific laboratory or faculty.
- Minors must wear appropriate laboratory attire.
- Hazardous materials and equipment are properly stored. The PI or lab supervisor should conduct a walkthrough of the lab prior to the tour or visit.
- Minors must be given a brief safety overview before entering the laboratory. This should include a discussion on safe behaviors and actions in the lab, including not touching lab surfaces and items in the lab.

Contact EHS:  
[ehs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ehs@oregonstate.edu)  
[ehs.oregonstate.edu](http://ehs.oregonstate.edu)  
541 • 737 • 2273

### **Restricted activities for Minors:**

- Participating in activities that can pose a physical hazard (such as motorized equipment, hand and power tools, and cutting devices).
- Use of needles and sharps.
- Use of equipment or materials with high rate of injury or health risk (such as chainsaws, circular saws, acutely toxic materials, carcinogens, etc.).
- Tasks that may lead to exposure of hazardous chemicals, biohazards, and/or radioactive substances (See OSHA [29 CFR 1910.1450](#) for more information). Radioactive materials or radiation (X-rays) that may result in the exposure of minors to more than 10 percent of the annual dose limits specified for adult workers.
- Minors are prohibited from working with radioactive substances ([per Child Labor Laws](#)).
- Access to areas that require hearing protection devices, hardhats, or respirators.
- Access to elevated surfaces above 10 ft.
- BSL-2 and BSL-3 Laboratories

### **Resources:**

Office of Youth Safety & Compliance: <https://youth.oregonstate.edu/>

BOLI: <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/employers/pages/child-labor-summaries.aspx>

OSHA Youth in Agriculture: <https://www.osha.gov/etools/youth-agriculture/rights-laws>

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC): <https://research.oregonstate.edu/iacuc>