



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Division of Animal Resources

Emory Integrated Core Facilities

DAR 2020-02: COVID-19 and Personal Protective Equipment

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Personnel are asked not to wear surgical-type masks and gloves continuously in the DAR facilities.

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Wearing surgical-type masks and gloves continuously in the DAR facilities is discouraged. These masks will not protect wearers from virus suspended in the air and create concerns among others that the wearer is actually infected and infectious. Surgical-type masks remain appropriate to wear in animal biosafety level 2 containment sites. Wearing gloves continuously still risks contamination of the environment, and surfaces handled by others, from soiled gloves. Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds remains the best protection. Please consider the shortages reported nationally in healthcare when considering wearing masks and gloves when not needed.

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In response to an increase in the wearing of surgical-type masks and gloves continuously in the research environment and DAR animal research facilities, we ask that you consider the appropriateness and effect of this practice. **Wearing a surgical-type mask** will not protect the wearer from virus suspended in the air and it risks creating fear among observers who might be of the belief that the wearer is potentially infectious. Laboratories and the DAR facilities have two to five times the air turnover rate of homes or most public areas and thus dilute and remove pathogens from the air more quickly. Surgical-type masks remain appropriate to wear in animal biosafety level 2 containment sites. **Wearing gloves continuously** might protect your hands, but does little to prevent the contamination of the environment, and surfaces handled by others, from your gloves. Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and then using the paper towel after hands drying to pull doors open, thus protecting fingers from contact with potentially contaminated surfaces, remains the best prevention. Physicians, nurses and other health care providers on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic, interacting closely with infected patients, are running short of masks. Labs are being asked to donate masks to health care. Please consider these facts when thinking about wearing masks and gloves in areas or for applications for which they are not ordinarily needed.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Michael Huerkamp: 7-3248; mhuerka@emory.edu.

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