

IACUC Update

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
The University of Texas at Austin

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Yellow Disposable Gowns Available in Animal Facilities

As mentioned previous issues of the *IACUC Update*, University policy requires the use of lab coats or equivalent personal protective equipment (PPE) when entering animal care areas or working with animals. The Animal Resources Center has recently installed centrally-located PPE stations throughout the ARC and NHB animal facilities. In addition to gloves and masks, these stations will now provide disposable yellow gowns that can be used to cover street clothes when entering animal rooms or working with animals in procedure rooms. This will help provide access to proper PPE for persons that visit these facilities and do not have an assigned laboratory or office space in the building in which to store a conventional lab coat.

However, it must be recognized that these lightweight gowns are not appropriate for actively working with animals larger than rodents/rabbits or performing potentially hazardous procedures, such as working with biosafety level 2 (ABSL-2) animals. In addition, users entering barrier or SPF-level rodent rooms **should not** use the gowns from these hall dispensers, but should continue to use those that are provided inside the entry to these “clean” areas.



Ban on Powdered Gloves Takes Effect January 18, 2017

Powdered gloves will no longer be permitted for use in veterinary medicine beginning January 18, 2017, under a rule issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The ban will impact both veterinary medicine and human medicine, according to FDA officials.

The coming ban is absolute — there’s no grace period for using up existing supplies. “[T]he risks of illness or injury to individuals who are currently exposed to these devices is [as] equally unreasonable and substantial as it would be for future individuals that might be exposed to powdered gloves,” the FDA stated in a March 22, 2016, Federal Register notice proposing the ban. The ban was made final on Dec. 19.

The FDA, which is responsible for enforcing the ban, recommends that unused stocks of powdered gloves be thrown away as one would dispose of any typical solid waste. Specific consequences for failure to comply with the ban have not been publicized.



Per Diem Notice Update

The ARC and the Office of Accounting are finalizing the official per diem rates for 2017 and will release an updated rate memo after approval by the university administration early this year. It is not anticipated that rates will differ significantly from the projected 2017 rates that were previously provided to researchers for budgeting purposes.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **Monday, February 13, 2017.**

The submission deadline for review at this FCR is **Friday, January 20, 2017.**

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