

Safety First



The intended use of this document is to provide science teachers and school administrators with safety information to make prudent decisions regarding lab safety. This document does not supersede school, school division, federal laws, or professional standards concerning the responsibilities of science teachers and schools.

SAFETY FOR TEACHERS:

BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS

- ⇒ CONDUCT A CHEMICAL INVENTORY OF YOUR CLASSROOM AND THE SCIENCE STORAGE AREA.
- ⇒ DETERMINE WHAT CHEMICALS ARE NEEDED FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR AND APPROPRIATE AMOUNTS OF EACH.
- ⇒ MAKE SURE SDS (SAFETY DATA SHEETS) ARE AVAILABLE AND ACCESSABLE TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.
- ⇒ ENSURE THERE IS ENOUGH SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASSES.
- ⇒ KNOW THE LOCATION OF AND HOW TO USE ALL SAFETY AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT IN THE CLASSROOM.
- ⇒ CONDUCT A SAFETY AUDIT OF YOUR CLASSROOM.
- ⇒ REVIEW THE DISTRICT CHEMICAL HYGIENE PLAN PRIOR TO BEGINNING EACH SCHOOL YEAR.
- ⇒ INSPECT ALL EQUIPMENT/APPARATUS IN THE LABORATORY BEFORE USE

SAFETY FOR TEACHERS: THE FIRST DAY AND BEYOND

BEFORE EACH ACTIVITY IN THE LABORATORY

- ⇒ WEIGH THE POTENTIAL RISK AGAINST THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF THE LAB.
- ⇒ HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF ALL POTENTIAL HAZARDS RELATED TO THE LAB AND DISCUSS ALL SAFETY CONCERNS WITH THE STUDENTS.
- ⇒ ALWAYS MODEL GOOD SAFETY IN THE LABORATORY.
- ⇒ ENFORCE ALL SAFETY RULES AND PROCEDURES AT ALL TIMES
- ⇒ NEVER LEAVE STUDENTS UNSUPERVISED
- ⇒ NEVER ALLOW STUDENTS TO TAKE CHEMICALS OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

SAFETY FOR STUDENTS

- ⇒ HAVE ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS SIGN A SAFETY CONTRACT BEFORE LETTING STUDENTS INTO THE LAB AREA.
- ⇒ CONSISTENTLY ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS WEAR APPROPRIATE EYE GOGGLES AND OTHER PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT IN THE LABORATORY SETTING.
- ⇒ TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT SAFETY DATA SHEETS AND HOW THEY ARE TO BE USED IN AN EMERGENCY.
- ⇒ STUDENTS ARE TO FOLLOW ALL SAFETY RULES AT ALL TIMES. REINFORCE THESE SAFETY RULES AND PROTOCOLS PRIOR TO EACH LAB ACTIVITY.

K-12 SAFETY RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

[CDC SCHOOL SAFETY GUIDE \(PDF\)](#)- THIS RESOURCE GUIDE IS USER FRIENDLY AND PROVIDES GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS FOR THE CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM.

ACS [SAFETY IN THE ELEMENTARY SCIENCE CLASSROOM, 3RD EDITION](#)

ACS [CHEMICAL SAFETY FOR TEACHERS AND THEIR SUPERVISORS 7-12](#)

[FLINN SCIENTIFIC LAB SAFETY COURSES AND RESOURCES](#) ONLINE SAFETY COURSES AS WELL AS OTHER LAB SAFETY RESOURCES.

[BARUCH COLLEGE CHEMISTRY LAB SAFETY TUTORIAL](#)- AN ONLINE TUTORIAL ALLOWS STUDENTS TO TOUR A VIRTUAL LAB AND REVIEWS SAFETY PROCEDURES IN CHEMISTRY. BIOLOGY LAB SAFETY TUTORIAL IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

[CRASH COURSE IN CHEMISTRY: LAB TECHNIQUES AND SAFETY](#)

[NSTA SAFETY IN THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM](#)- A COLLECTION OF SCIENCE RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS.