Lab Safety Rules for Students

- Report all accidents, injuries, and breakage of glass or equipment to instructor immediately.
- Keep pathways clear by placing extra items (books, bags, etc.) on the shelves.
- Long hair (chin-length or longer) must be tied back to avoid catching fire.
- Wear sensible clothing including footwear. Loose clothing should be secured so they do not get caught in a flame or chemicals. Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes.
- Work quietly know what you are doing by reading the assigned experiment and safety information for the compounds and solvents before you start to work. Pay close attention to any cautions described in the laboratory exercises.
- Do not taste or smell chemicals. Learn how to transport all materials and equipment safely.
- Avoid explosions. Never pour water into concentrated acids. Always add concentrated acid slowly to the water. Never mix a strong oxidizing agent with a strong reducing agent.
- Reagent bottles must be protected from contamination. Try to avoid taking a large excess of the reagent. However, if you take more than you need, do not return the excess to the bottle. It is a waste and should be disposed. Put the bottles back to the cabinet after using them.
- Dispose the solid and liquid wastes in designated containers. Many kind of liquid wastes must be collected and handled separately. Ordinarily acids, bases and most inorganic liquid wastes can be flushed down the sink with copious amounts of cold water under the fume-hood.
- Never point a test tube being heated at another student or yourself. Never look into a test tube while you are heating it.
- Leave your work station clean and in good order before leaving the laboratory.
- Do not lean, hang over or sit on the laboratory tables.
- Do not lift any solutions, glassware or other types of apparatus above eye level.
- Do not leave your assigned laboratory station without permission of the teacher.
- Learn the location of the fire extinguisher, eye wash station, first aid kit and safety shower.
- Unauthorized experiments or procedures must not be attempted.
- Fooling around or "horse play" in the laboratory is absolutely forbidden. Students found in violation of this safety rule will be barred from participating in future labs and could result in suspension.
- Follow all instructions given by your teacher.
- No eating, smoking or drinking in the lab at any time.