

9.4T MRI FACILITY  
SOP#210-03 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The 9.4T MRI Facility is a Level 2 Biohazard Facility. However, not all work conducted is Level 2. As such, personnel must consult each individual Animal Use Protocol to determine the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment necessary for their individual tasks.
- 1.2. The static magnetic field in the 9.4T MRI facility is always present. It is important that all those entering the facility be aware of the presence of the field, as it cannot be detected by our person in any way, i.e. magnetic fields cannot be felt, seen, or smelt.
- 1.3. During certain types of MRI data collection, there exists high and therefore potentially dangerous acoustic sound pressure levels (SPL). All those entering the facility must be made aware of this risk and instructed as to the proper precautionary measures to be taken. Any research personnel present in the magnet room during an MRI experiment must wear appropriate hearing protection as outlined below.

**2. EYE PROTECTION**

- 2.1. Safety glasses can be obtained from the Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator. If using protective glasses in the magnet room, ensure there are no metal pieces.
- 2.2. Protective eyewear must be worn for procedures in which splashes of microorganisms, chemicals or other hazardous materials, including animal bodily fluids, are a possibility. The Animal Prep room is considered a laboratory, and as such, safety glasses must be worn in that room at all times.
- 2.3. There is an eyewash station beside the sink in the prep area of the 9.4T MRI Facility for emergencies.
- 2.4. Consult the UWO “Eye Protection Program” document found in the UWO Safety Info binder in the Animal Prep Room for more details.

**3. FOOTWEAR PROTECTION**

- 3.1. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times in laboratories that use or store hazardous chemicals and materials and biohazard materials. Perforated shoes, open-toes or heels, sandals, or shoes that could absorb spills must not be worn in these laboratories.

**4. CLOTHING**

- 4.1. Protective clothing suitable for the handling to be done must be worn at all times: lab coats, gloves, masks, etc. This clothing should be removed before leaving the 9.4T MRI Facility.
- 4.2. When using masks in the magnet room, make sure they are the type without the metal nosepiece.
- 4.3. Gloves are worn when hands may contact potentially infectious materials, contaminated surfaces and equipment, and also when handling animals or animal related equipment. Gloves should not be worn outside the lab. Hands should be washed after removing gloves. GLOVES are disposed of in the BIOHAZARD bin, not the regular garbage.

**5. HEARING PROTECTION**

- 5.1. During certain types of MRI data collection, there exists high, and therefore potentially dangerous, acoustic sound pressure levels (SPL). It is mandatory for all personnel who will be present in the magnet room during the scan session to wear hearing protection either in the form of earplugs or earmuffs provided by the 9.4T MRI Facility.
- 5.2. Earplugs can be found in the Animal Prep Room.

**6. IMMUNIZATION**

- 6.1. Records on the vaccination status of all employees are maintained by UWO Workplace Health. Depending on the specific position and/or species handled, immunizations or tests may be warranted. See SOP#400 "[Animal Exposure & Health Issues](#)" for more details.
- 6.2. It is the responsibility of the Investigator/Supervisor to ensure their staff/students are fully vaccinated for their type of work.