

## STANDARD PRECAUTIONS FOR THE LABORATORY

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### Objective/Rationale

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Standard precautions and good safety techniques must be practiced by all health care professionals to prevent the spread of disease. The student will comply with standard precaution measures and demonstrate safe practices in laboratory investigations and fieldwork.

TEKS 121.14 1A, 1B, 1C

TAKS ELA 1, 3, 4

National Science Education Standards F9-12

National Health Care Skills Standards .01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09

National Curriculum Standards for School Mathematics S1; S3

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### Key Points

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- I. Definition of key terms relating to infection control
  - a. Asepsis
  - b. Standard precautions
  - c. Biohazard
  - d. Carriers // fomites
  - e. Nosocomial infection
- II. Standard precautions have been established as infection control guidelines to prevent the spread of infection and to ensure the safety of health care professionals.
- III. Safety practices in laboratory investigations include the proper handling of medical equipment, supplies, and biohazardous materials and their proper disposal.
- IV. Federal and state regulatory agencies have established guidelines for the prevention of disease transmission.
  - a. **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
  - b. **Centers for Disease Control**
  - c. **Environmental Protection Agency**
  - d. **Texas Department of Health**
  - e. **U.S. Department of Health**
  - f. **Local Health Department**

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### Activities

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- I. Predict the laboratory policies and procedures expected to be employed in a clinical lab. Visit the clinical laboratory of a local hospital and observe the laboratory environment and lab personnel. Compare and contrast predictions with the procedures observed in the laboratory.
- II. Research and report on the roles of the following agencies regarding the safety of health care professionals:  
OSHA      FDA      State Health Dept.      EPA      U.S. Dept. of Public Health
- III. Create a multimedia presentation to promote laboratory safety.

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## Materials/Resources

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City-County Health Department  
U.S. Dept. of Public Health  
State Health Department  
EPA  
<http://www.nsta.org/handbook/liability.asp>

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## Assessment

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**Writing Rubric**  
**Multimedia Rubric**

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## Accommodations

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For reinforcement, the student will design a chart outlining standard precautions in the laboratory.

For enrichment, the student will create an occupational exposure control plan for clinical laboratory workers.

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## Reflections

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