**Guidelines for Minors in Research Labs**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to faculty and staff who have minors working in research labs at Clemson University. This guidance applies to those ages 14-17 that will be working in Clemson University research labs in any capacity. It does not apply to enrolled students. For programs involving participants that are 13 or younger, please contact the Office of Research Safety (ORS) for guidance.

All minors working in programs and activities occupying labs must be registered with the Pre-Collegiate Programs Office (PcPO) as outlined by the **Protection of Minors in Youth Programs and Activities Policy** and youth programs operating standards:

REG WEBSITE LINK HERE

<https://www.clemson.edu/administration/pre-collegiate/documents/CUOSfYP.pdf>

**Guidelines for Principal Investigator (PI) or laboratory supervisor:** PIs are expected to uphold the same training and safety standards with minors as with any undergraduate or graduate level research student. This includes:

* Ensure the laboratory is compliant with regulations and safety standards set forth by the ORS and Clemson University.
* Provide appropriate safety training based on all hazards present in the laboratory as well as specific safety training based on the hazards of the work to be conducted. Such training can be conducted by the PI in consultation with ORS or ORS can provide in-person and online training tailored to the needs of the PI / research hazards.
* Research groups operating under IBC or IACUC protocols must update their protocols to include minor(s) and ensure appropriate safety training is completed as determined by these protocols. However, registration for medical surveillance is optional:

<https://www.clemson.edu/cbshs/centers-institutes/sullivan/services/medical-surveillance.html>

* PIs must provide all personal protective equipment necessary for the minor to safely conduct their research and ensure proper lab attire is worn at all times.
* Minors may never work in the lab alone and the **Protection of Minors in Youth Programs and Activities Policy** states that two adults are required to be present with a minor at all times.

**Prohibitions:** Minors are prohibited from working with the following:

* Explosives
* Acutely toxic chemicals (i.e. sodium azide, hydrogen cyanide, phosgene)
* Pyrophoric chemicals
* Biological agents characterized above Biological Safety Level 2
* DEA controlled substances

Specialized hazard training and enhanced oversight must be provided for minors working with:

* Carcinogens
* Reproductive toxins
* Radiation and X-ray equipment
* Lasers
* Hazardous mechanical equipment (i.e. drill press, lathes, etc.)
* Biosafety Level 1 and 2 materials

In the event an accident occurs, the following action should be taken:

* If it is an emergency, call 911 and await emergency responders.
* If necessary, the minor should be taken to Redfern medical clinic (or other medical provider covered by the minor’s medical insurance) and accompanied by the PI or representative and provide relevant information (SDS for chemicals, nature of work, accident details, etc.)
* Fill out the following incident report forms:
  + <https://www.clemson.edu/administration/risk/documents/Incident-Report-Form.pdf>
  + <https://media.clemson.edu/research/safety/DSCs/Incident_Report_Form.pdf>
  + Any Pre-Collegiate Program Office (PcPO) forms as appropriate.