

	Protective Clothing Policy	Effective:	1 May 2006
		Originator	Protective Clothing Committee
		Last Updated:	7 August 2006
		Updated by:	J. M. Naylor

1. Purpose:

The Protective Clothing Policy was initiated by the Dean to address the following concerns:

1.1. Safety and the prevention of spread of disease

As a basic safety and health measure, the transfer of potentially harmful infectious agents contained in bodily secretions could be limited in large part by the wearing of protective clothing in the hospital, laboratory, or pasture setting.

To limit the potential transfer of harmful agents to other geographical locales (other areas of campus, home, downtown, etc.) protective clothing would be worn only in the designated areas – “street” clothes would be resumed for return to other areas.

1.2. Protection of everyday attire

The availability of protective clothing would also act to protect the individual users clothing from contamination and damage by the various biological and chemical agents commonly encountered in the laboratory and clinical setting.

1.3. Identification

Consistency in the type of protective clothing worn would allow ready identification of personnel and students working in heavily contaminated areas or those requiring special precautions.

The following policies are a first step and can be updated and improved as deemed necessary.

2. Scope:

- 2.1. This policy applies to all members of Ross School of Veterinary Medicine in St Kitts.

3. Procedure

- 3.1 All students, staff and faculty at the Ross School of Veterinary Medicine who are working with animals or biological material should be familiar with the following clothing policy as it applies to their area.

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Protective Clothing Attire in Specific Locales

- 3.2 Surgery and anesthesia – Dr. Grevemeyer, coordinator.
The protective clothing for all members of the surgery and anesthesia areas are solid green scrubs (would apply to all faculty, staff, and students working in these areas), disposable shoe covers and caps. Scrubs would be donned in change rooms close to time of surgery and not worn to school. Scrubs should be covered with a full lab coat for movement from changing area or for short-term entry into other areas of the hospital, laboratories or offices. Hooks will be provided by the entry to surgery to hang the lab coats on; these will probably take the form of a moveable coat rack.
- Personnel temporarily entering surgery, and not dressed in green scrubs, will don a green gown over their clothing.
- To make recognition of personnel easier during surgery anesthetists and anesthesiologists will wear yellow disposable caps, surgeons blue caps and students green caps.
- 3.3 Large animal – Dr. Naylor, coordinator.
The protective clothing proposed for the large animal areas of campus (barn, paddocks, stalls, pastures) are either coveralls (brown, blue or green preferred), or scrubs (any color EXCEPT green; brown or blue preferred). Closed toed shoes or boots for protective footwear. Rubber boots, rubber overshoes or disposable boots to be worn in areas where contagious diseases transmitted by feces are likely to be present.
- 3.4 Diagnostic Laboratories, Dr A-M Miller, coordinator.
White full-length laboratory coats, scrubs and protective clogs. Laboratory coats to stay in laboratory.
- 3.5 Clinical Pathology, Parasitology and Microbiology Student Laboratories – Dr T. Krecek, Dr K. Lander, rotating clinical pathologist, coordinators.
Appropriate clothing is a white full-length laboratory coat or scrubs that are not green in color. The laboratory coat or scrubs should only be worn in the labs or to and from changing areas.
- 3.6 Small animal hospital – Dr. Yaphe, coordinator.
The protective clothing proposed includes a full-length lab coat, preferably but not necessarily white, (over street clothes) and pants or, alternatively, if preferred by clinical faculty - scrubs (not green) with the option additionally of a lab coat. Protective footwear may also be considered at some time in the future.

When an animal with suspected contagious disease is being treated students will wear (red) scrubs provided by the hospital. These will be laundered by the hospital so that contagious disease is not moved off premises.

- 3.7 Anatomy – Dr TBA, coordinator.
Students – Street clothes are not allowed, full length lab coats and/or scrubs (not green) are acceptable; these may not be worn in other areas. Must provide own gloves. Shoes cannot be open toed.
Technicians – Protective shoes, coveralls and eyewear for dangerous situations. As above for less dangerous situations.
- 3.8 Necropsy – Dr. Miller, coordinator.
The protective clothing proposed includes coveralls and protective rubber footwear (boots). Additional protective clothing will be supplied in the area. Contaminated clothing would be removed as the person leaves necropsy. There should be a change room with shower and laundry facilities adjacent to the necropsy area.

Implementation Dates

Requirements for first semester students (starting May 2006):

1. Obtain a set of non-green scrubs either before or soon after arriving on the island of St Kitts.
2. Obtain a set of coveralls, short sleeved cotton coveralls are often the most comfortable, before the end of first semester.

Requirements for the acquisition of green scrubs for students are:

1. Current 4th semester: will be expected to have green scrubs when they enter 6th semester in the Fall of 2006.
2. Current 3rd semester: will be expected to have green colored scrubs for their anesthesia lab in 5th semester.
It is recommended (not required) that the current 5th and 6th semester wear green scrubs.
3. By 1 January 2007 all students engaged in anesthesia or surgery will be expected to wear green scrubs and other items as listed in the above policy.