



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

MSU Veterinary Medical Center	VMC.VMC.SOP.13	Rev. 1
Department: VMC	Active Date: 10/1/2019	
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Dress Code Guidelines

I. Purpose / Scope

A. This guideline applies to all faculty, staff and students while working with all animals or biologic materials in the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC). Attire in the VMC shall be of a nature that facilitates safety, hygiene, and infection control measures that are appropriate for a medical facility. Recommendations for attire should balance professional appearance, comfort, and practicality with the available evidence for the potential role of apparel in cross transmission of pathogens.

II. Responsible

A. All individual working and providing service in the VMC.

III. Safety

A. NA

IV. Definitions and Keywords

A. NA

V. Supplies and Equipment

A. Supplies

B. Equipment

VI. Procedure

A. All students, staff, and faculty at the VMC who are working with animals or biological material should be familiar with the following clothing guidelines.

1. Standards of dress and hygiene shall be communicated during clerkship rotation orientation, and new hire orientation programs.

B. VMC identification badges, or legible embroidered attire shall be worn with a minimum of last name, and title (ex: Dr. or Doctor, LVT (or equivalent), veterinary

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student, technician student as applicable). Inclusion of a service group identifier (i.e. neurology, internal medicine) is recommended.

C. Protective apparel should not be worn away from the VMC, but rather should be changed into upon arrival and before leaving.

D. General Appearance

1. Footwear

a) Footwear should be clean, protective (closed toe) and fit securely.

b) Bare feet, flip-flops, open-toe shoes, and sandals are not permitted while working in animal or laboratory areas of the hospital.

c) It is recommended that footwear worn while providing service within the VMC should not be worn outside of the VMC.

2. Hair

a) Hair shall be kept clean and neat

b) When involved in patient care or surgery, long hair, including bangs, shall be securely restrained away from the face in such a manner that it does not come into contact with patients, clients or material in the work area.

3. Nails

a) Nails should be kept short, clean, and well-manicured

b) When involved in patient care or surgery, nails should not extend beyond the fingertip. Artificial and acrylic nails are discouraged for personnel who have physical contact with patients.

c) Regarding nails, judgment as to the appropriateness for patient safety and infection control shall be at the discretion of the supervisor.

4. Jewelry

a) Jewelry must not interfere with patient care or present a hazard to the employee.

b) Due consideration for personal and patient safety shall be given to dangling or hoop jewelry, necklaces and rings.

c) Due consideration shall be given to the risks of infection/contamination of body piercings.

5. Attire

a) Clothing shall be compatible with a safety-conscious work environment and suitable for the work area and provide an appropriate physical barrier against injury or contamination.

b) Any clothing (personal or VMC-owned) contaminated with blood, body fluids or other infectious/hazardous substances shall be changed immediately and laundered accordingly (VMC.xxx).

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c) Clinicians have the option to wear scrubs, or professional clothing covered with a protective layer (i.e. white lab coat or smock) when working with patients or laboratory specimens.

(1) If clothing is worn without a protective layer, it must be changed before leaving the VMC.

(2) Protective outer layer (scrubs, smock, lab coat) remains at the VMC.

d) Clinicians on-call for emergency care should keep appropriate clothing close by (in a locker or go-bag) in order to address an emergency safely.

e) Scrub color code:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| (1) Clinicians | Pale Green |
| (2) Surgery | TBD |
| (3) LVTs | Light Blue |
| (4) DVM Students | Burgundy |
| (5) LVT Students | Gray |
| (6) Customer Service | Dark Green |
| (7) Other Staff (VA, caretakers,
working students) | Navy |

f) Examples of unacceptable attire, without exception, include (but are not limited to)

- (1) Sweatpants and exercise pants
- (2) Shirts with words, terms, pictures, cartoons, or slogans
 - (a) Clothing with the VMC or MSU Athletic logos are permitted if they comply with all other standards.
- (3) Midriff tops
- (4) Casual or athletic shorts
- (5) Shirts or pants with holes or stains
- (6) See-through clothing
- (7) Clothing that reveals cleavage (front or back) when bending over

6. Laundering

a) Clothing and protective outer layers worn to provide service in the VMC should be laundered at the VMC.

b) Requests to launder clothing at home can be honored, however, items which have been grossly contaminated with blood, body fluids or other infectious/hazardous substances must be laundered by the VMC first, prior to being laundered at home. (*SOP pending*)

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- E. Surgery and Anesthesia
This section is pending
- F. Facilities
 - 1. Casual dress including t-shirts/shirts, sweatshirts and jeans are acceptable (as deemed appropriate by aforementioned detail).
- G. Special Considerations
 - 1. Individual units or departments may establish additional requirements as is suitable for the work area.
 - 2. Should personnel not normally involved with patient care become involved for any reason, it is expected that they change into scrubs.
- H. Compliance and Enforcement
 - 1. Adherence to this dress code guideline is expected of all working in the VMC. Administrators, faculty members and supervisors are responsible for implementing the guideline.
 - 2. Failure to comply with the guideline may result in restricted access to the VMC until the dress code requirements are met.
- VII. Related documents
 - A. VMC Laundry SOP
- VIII. Revision History
 - A. New
- IX. Issuing Authority
 - A. Reviewed by: Elizabeth Hamilton
 - B. Approved by: VMC Infection Control Committee on 7/18/2019