General Risk Assessment Form RA1

University of Cambridge, general risk assessment form

SCoPE teaching toolkit – 'Fruit Fly Larvae Dissection'

The Gurdon Institute will provide fruit fly larvae and equipment to carry out a larvae dissection in a class of 30 students. The Institute has also provided a PowerPoint file for the teacher to use to set up the activity, including written and video instructions for the dissection for teachers and students.

Updated 06/01/2020

List the significant hazard(s).[1]	Describe what could go wrong – that is, say who might be hurt and how.[2]	Is the risk high, medium or low?[3]	Please list the existing and/or intended control measures which will reduce the likelihood of all this happening.[4]	Suggest here any further actions which may be beneficial. Say who will carry them out and by when.
Sharp edges on plastic coverslips and glass slides	Students or teacher(s) could break the glass slides and cut themselves with the sharp edges on the broken slides or the plastic coverslips	Low	Students and teachers are alerted to this safety concern in the written and video instructions for the activity. A yellow bin is provided for the disposal of sharp items such as used slides and coverslips.	Students are instructed to return all used and unused items to the teacher at the end of the activity.
Sharp ends on forceps	Students or teacher(s) could puncture or tear tissue with the sharp ends on the forceps.	Low	Forceps will be provided with coverings on the sharp ends.	Students and teachers are alerted to the potential danger in the written and video instructions. Students are instructed to re-cover the forceps as soon as they are finished using them for the dissection

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Chemical non-hazard	Some fruit fly vials may contain bromophenol blue indicator	None	Bromophenol blue is a non-hazardous substance.	n/a
Cleaning vials	The teacher/technician may opt to clean out the vials using bleach/disinfectant and dispose of them at the school and could accidentally expose sensitive areas to bleach or disinfectant.	Low	If the teacher/technician decides to clean out the vials and dispose of them at the school instead of returning the vials to the Gurdon Institute, the teacher or technician must have a school-approved risk assessment for this. (Otherwise, the vials can simply be returned to the Institute without needing to clean them.)	This risk has been indicated on the teacher/technician instructions.

Important! It is essential to check regularly that control measures specified in this risk assessment document are actually being used in practice. Any specialist emergency or first aid procedures should be specified here.	
If any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is required, please specify it here or attach it to this form. Any specialist training required should also be specified here	
Is special monitoring (e.g. hearing test, eye test, health surveillance) required? If so, please enter details and also contact the University Occupational Health Service.	What personal protective equipment (PPE) is required (e.g. overalls, gloves, respiratory protection, eye protection)? You must ensure that any PPE specified is suitable for the purpose. Some activities require PPE, see activity RA

Please complete this section to confirm that this constitutes a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk.

Name of assessor:	Signature:	Date:	Name of supervisor:	Signature:	Date:
Helene Doerflinger	Helene Doerflinger	6 January 2020			

This assessment should be reviewed regularly (usually every 12 months), or earlier if there is a material change to the process, the equipment, location or relevant safety technologies. It should also be reviewed when new people are involved, or after an accident or incident has taken place.

Reviewed by (name)	Signature	Date	Indicate changes here[5]

[1] A list of hazards is provided below to help you, but this may not be exhaustive. If any of these hazards can be eliminated altogether, or can be reduced at source by making an inherent change then we must consider doing so. Hazards in **bold** will also need an additional, more technical assessment on a specialist form - please ask your Departmental Safety Officer or the University Safety Office for further advice.

High or low temperatures	High pressures	**Chemical hazards**	**Biological hazards**	Genetically Modified Organisms	
Ionising radiations	Lasers	Sharp objects	Dusts	Work at heights	Animal houses
Magnetic fields	Machinery hazards	Electricity	Manual Handling	Noise	Vibration
Falling objects	Collapsing structures	Flooding	**Slips, trips and falls**	Asphyxiant gases	Flammable gases

[2] Please explain how an accident, incident or health condition could arise. We must consider all events which are *reasonably foreseeable*.

[3] Please see the health and safety risk assessment handbook for further guidance on levels of risk.

[4] When deciding on suitable control measures, you should ensure that you are complying with all relevant University policy and guidance documents, and that you have considered the hierarchy of control measures. In order to comply with legislation, we must also take all steps which are 'reasonably practicable' to reduce risk. This means that we should take all steps which are (in terms of time, cost and trouble) reasonable in relation to the reduction of risk achieved.

[5] If changes are extensive, you will need to complete a whole new form, or attach a written amendment. If there are no changes say so.