A. Purpose
This guideline describes the proper attire required for working in designated areas of the Animal Care Facility.

B. Materials
- Clean lab coat, disposable gown, or clean scrubs
- Disposable shoe covers
- Exam gloves
- Hair net
- Eye protection
- Mask
- Closed toe/heel shoes

C. Guideline
1) Individual clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements are determined by the following:
   a) Risk assessment of the workplace, the task and the associated hazards.
   b) Review of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or other suitable information.
   c) Assessment by the Occupational Health Program.
   d) TAMU-C Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) recommendations.
2) Consult appropriate signage at the entrance of the room or facility for any specific PPE requirements.
3) Clothing and PPE designated for animal areas should not be worn in public areas.
4) Outer protective clothing:
   a) Wear dedicated work clothes or outer protective clothing (e.g., lab coat, scrubs, gown) in animal facilities; additional PPE may be required when in contact with:
      i) Infected animals, their waste or bodily fluids
      ii) Infectious, radioactive or chemical hazards
   b) Keep clean clothes readily available and change as often as needed. Provide laundry service at the workplace for reusable clothing. Restrict clothes to a given group of animals with the same health status (e.g., same room, same colony, similar infectious status). Do not wear those clothes outside the facility (i.e., in public areas).
   c) Cover legs, feet, and arms when working with chemical, infectious, or radioactive hazards.
5) Gloves:
   a) Wear gloves whenever there is contact with animals, cages, urine, feces, blood, or other biological fluids, infectious, chemical, or radioactive hazards.
   b) Change gloves frequently to minimize fomite contamination within the animal room. Consider the use of double gloves (i.e., outer and inner pairs) for additional protection and/or for preventing contamination of surfaces by changing outer gloves frequently while maintaining protection with the inner gloves.
   c) Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, or use an alcohol sanitizer at the end of the procedure or upon leaving the facility.

6) Mucous membrane/respiratory protection:
   a) Utilize a face mask if there is a risk of splashing or droplet exposure to mucous membranes.
   b) Consult with EHS to determine the need for respiratory protection against airborne hazardous materials and allergens. Respiratory protection includes disposable respirators such as N95 filtering face pieces.

7) Ocular/Facial Protection:
   a) Wear protective glasses or a face shield whenever there is a risk of exposure or physical injury to the face/eyes.
   b) Eyeglasses used to correct vision are not considered protective; wear additional protective glasses or protective glasses and a face shield.

8) Foot Protection:
   a) Wear disposable shoe covers whenever working with:
      i) Infected animals or their waste
      ii) Infectious or radioactive hazards
   b) Closed-toed and closed-heeled shoes must be worn in animal facilities. Sandals, clog style shoes, and open-toed shoes are not permissible.
   c) Dedicated working shoes or shoe covers are recommended when working with SPF animals inside a barrier. These working shoes should not be worn outside the facility.

9) Hearing Protection:
   a) Hearing protection may be necessary when working in areas or facilities where noise may be a concern (e.g., areas with large numbers of dogs or chickens, cage washing equipment). Personnel who are exposed to noise levels over 90 decibels (dBA) or greater, averaged over an eight hour work day, will need to consult with EHS.