



Lessons learned: **Lentivirus II splash on hand**



What happened?

While working in a biosafety cabinet an overfilled capped Eppendorf was opened and a solution containing lentivirus vectors (2nd generation) was splashed onto bare skin of the hand created by a gap between the long-sleeved lab coat and the two pairs of gloves the student was wearing. The student immediately washed the exposed intact skin using a soap under the sink for a few minutes and disinfected the work surface in the biosafety cabinet, while a colleague reported the incident to the security unit and received approval from the biosafety officer.



What went wrong?

The designated personal protection equipment was lacking because of the gap between the ending of the sleeve of the lab coat and the beginning of the donned gloves.

The Eppendorf tube was over filled. Aqueous solutions expand upon freezing. This should be considered when filling up Eppendorf tubes. In addition, capped Eppendorf tubes were used instead of screw capped ones.



What went right?

The student was wearing complete PPE, immediately washed the exposed skin, reported the incident and received proper instructions, which were meticulously followed.



How to prevent similar incidents in the future?

The lab coat long sleeves should be taped to the end part of the donned gloves. Alternatively, long sleeved gloves should be used.

Never overfill tubes destined for freezing as their volume will expand.

Always use screw-capped Eppendorf tubes for freezing.