**Laboratory Safety:**

To be read by the student before beginning any lab­oratory work.

1- Do not eat, drink, smoke, or store food in the laboratory. Avoid all finger-to-mouth contact.

2- Never pipette by mouth because of the danger of ingesting microorganisms or toxic chemicals.

3- Lab coats must be worn at all times while in the laboratory. This ensures that culture material is not accidentally deposited of your clothes or skin, and acts as a safe­guard to protect your clothes and yourself from spillages of chemicals and stains.

4- Wipe down the bench surface with disinfectant before and after each laboratory period.

5- Tie long hair back to prevent it from catching fire in the Bunsen burner or contaminating cultures.

6- Keep the workbench clear of any unnecessary books or other items. Do not work on top of the manual because if spills occur, it cannot be disinfected easily.

7- Be careful with the Bunsen burner. Make sure that paper, alcohol, the gas hose, and your microscope are not close to the flame.

8- All contaminated material and cultures must be placed in the proper containers for autoclaving before disposal or washing.

9- Avoid creating aerosols by gently mixing cultures. Clean off the loop in a sand jar before naming in the Bunsen burner.

10- If a culture is dropped and broken, notify the instructor. Cover the contaminated area with a paper towel and pour disinfec­tant over the material. After ten minutes, put the material in a broken glass container to be autoclaved.

11- Carefully follow the techniques of handling cultures as demonstrated by the instructor.

12- When the laboratory is in session, the doors and windows should be shut. A sign should be posted on the door indicating that it is a microbiology laboratory.

13- Be sure you know the location of fire extinguishers, eyewash apparatus, and other safety equipment.

14- Wash your hands with soap and water after any possible contamination and at the end of the laboratory period.

15- If you are immunocompromised for any reason (including pregnancy), it may be wise to consult a physician before taking this class.