

## Monthly Health and Safety Focus

### Machine Guarding – Full lab and Urgent Care stores

Moving machine parts have the potential to cause severe workplace injuries, such as crushed fingers or hands, amputations, burns, or blindness. Safeguards are essential for protecting workers from these preventable injuries. When the operation of a machine or accidental contact could injure the operator or others in the vicinity, the hazards must be eliminated or controlled.



Machine guarding is a safety feature on or around equipment consisting of a shield or device covering hazardous areas. The purpose of machine guarding is to prevent contact with body parts and prevent hazards like chips or sparks from exiting the machine.

Each piece of equipment in the lab has some type of guard or safety measure in place to ensure safe operation. These should be inspected monthly to ensure they are in good condition and may not be bypassed during operation.

If you are not sure what to look for, we now offer a “Lab Equipment – Safety Guide” as a reference. This guide can be found in the *Ciao! Documents folder > Environmental, Health & Safety > Support Documents*.