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<b>Revision:</b> 1.0	<b>Subject:</b> Use of Gentian Violet	

1. Introduction

The Environmental Health and Safety Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the use of gentian violet was developed by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety in accordance with the University's Policy Statements on Health and Safety and Environmental Management and to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation and guidelines.

Gentian violet is an antiseptic dye used to treat fungal infections of the skin (e.g., ringworm, athlete's foot). It also has weak antibacterial effects and, as a result, it has been used on minor cuts and scrapes to prevent infection. Gentian violet is also a material that, according to the safety data sheets, may result in long term adverse impacts to the aquatic environment.

Recently, Health Canada issued information states that exposures to gentian violet may increase the risk of cancer. The advice provided leads to the conclusion that applications where gentian violet comes into contact with skin should be avoided. In addition to the damage it can cause to human life and property, gentian violet is known to be very toxic to aquatic life, with long-lasting effects on the environment. For these reasons, the City of Kingston has by-laws in place prohibiting the disposal of gentian violet in the sanitary sewer.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all community members on university property and all events hosted or sanctioned by the University.

3. Applicable Legislation and Guidelines

Occupational Health & Safety Act (Part IV Toxic Substances)  
 Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System R.R.O. 1990, Reg 860  
 Environmental Protection Act R.R.O 1990, Reg. 347  
 City of Kingston By-Law 2008-192 (Section 4.3)  
 Health Canada – Information Update RA-70179



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#### 4. Responsibilities

##### 4.1 Responsibilities of Management

- Ensure that their employees and students (as applicable) are notified of this SOP.
- Take appropriate action for non-compliance with the SOP.

##### 4.2 Responsibilities of Employees and Students

- Employees and students are required to educate themselves with respect to, and comply with, the requirements of this SOP.

##### 4.3 Department of Environmental Health & Safety

- Provide guidance and assistance to managers and employees with respect to their responsibilities in accordance with this SOP.
- Communicate information about this SOP through the department's webpage and by the posting this Policy on departmental Health and Safety boards.
- Review this SOP periodically and amend as necessary.

#### 5. Use of Gentian Violet

As a result of recent Health Canada warnings and the potential for negative environmental impacts, the storage and use of gentian violet is not permitted on university property or as part of any university hosted or sanctioned event.

This SOP does not apply to the storage and use of gentian violet for approved teaching and/or research purposes that meet all regulatory and ethics approval requirements.

This SOP does not prohibit the storage and use of gentian violet by a healthcare practitioner where this is a legitimate medical treatment requirement.

#### Revision History

2020-11: 1.0: Initial Release