

# Learning assessment answers

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Are the statements below true or false?

1. Lone working only takes place during out of hours' periods.  
**FALSE.** Lone working can occur during normal working hours as well as 'out of hours' periods. It is possible for a worker to be on the same floor of a building or even in the same general area as others, yet be working alone.
2. Lone working, especially 'out of hours', in laboratories should be carefully risk assessed.  
**TRUE.** The lone worker is at increased risk in a laboratory environment, especially during 'out of hours' periods and/or when handling hazardous materials.
3. Once approved for lone working, the lone worker can carry out any type of laboratory work.  
**FALSE.** The work **MUST** be carefully risk assessed and the laboratory work will be limited depending on several factors, such as; the time of day, the day of week, the hazards involved, the actual risk of exposure, available controls, if others are near, effective emergency response and communications. Institutions should set the parameters to what can and cannot be done while working alone and during 'out of hours' periods.
4. If I want to work in the laboratory over the weekend or in the evening, I should let someone know.  
**TRUE.** A good process and system for communication that covers both routine and emergency situations is vital. In the very least someone should know where you are in the building and how to contact you.
5. Undergraduate research project students do not require direct supervision as lone workers in the laboratory.  
**FALSE.** Generally speaking, as inexperienced laboratory researchers, undergraduate students do require direct supervision. However, with appropriate training and experience, tasks and activities with increased risk may be attempted but always after a suitable and sufficient risk/COSHH assessment has been completed and approved by an experienced member of staff.

