Never handle toxic, harmful or irritating powders near someone’s desk or near a food preparation area.

Handle these materials in a chemical fume hood, biological safety cabinet (BSC), or other exhaust hood whenever possible. This is required for particularly hazardous substances (PHSs) in powder form.

If you need to weigh out a toxic, harmful or irritating powder but you cannot locate the balance inside a fume hood or BSC, consider one of these alternatives:

⇒ Purchase the material in liquid form so that you avoid handling powder altogether, OR
⇒ Purchase in pre-weighed amounts, preferably in a sealed vial with a septum so that diluent can be injected directly into vial, OR
⇒ Obtain an exhausted balance enclosure, OR
⇒ Follow the steps below to safely weigh the material using a balance that is not in a hood or BSC.

SAFE WEIGHING OF POWDERS
WHEN THE BALANCE IS NOT IN THE HOOD

⇒ Tare (pre-weigh) an empty container with a lid.
⇒ Go to fume hood or BSC, add approximate amount of powder to container, and close lid.
⇒ Return to the balance and determine mass of powder.
⇒ Return to the fume hood or BSC to prepare solution.