

Guidelines for Laboratory Research During Current Pandemic

PURPOSE

To provide guidance for approved laboratory personnel to conduct research during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

GUIDELINES

Social Distancing in the Laboratory Space

- Wear a face mask (or cloth face cover) while on campus
- Follow strict social distancing by maintaining 6 feet of separation/clearance
- Lab members shall come to the lab for essential lab duties only; non-laboratory-based work should be performed remotely (data analysis, manuscript revisions)
- Use flexible non-overlapping shifts
 - Exercise caution in small or shared rooms/spaced by allowing only one person at a time (ex. cell culture room, biosafety cabinet rooms, etc.)
 - No more than two individuals in the break room at one time
 - No in-person group lab meetings until further notice; all meetings should be held via phone or internet video conferencing

Good Hygiene Practices

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly – soap and water for 20 seconds OR hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol
 - Especially after using common spaces, such as elevators and stairwells
- Wear all required PPE and use all necessary engineering controls
- Handwashing must be performed each time a person enters and exits the lab
- No computer work should be done on personal computers in the lab
- Disinfect your cellphones often and try to minimize contact with your face (specifically your eyes, nose, and mouth)
- Sneeze/cough into elbow and wash hands immediately afterwards
- Stay home if you are sick or showing any symptoms

Cleaning/Disinfection

- Follow the preestablished cleaning and/or disinfection protocols set for the lab/experiment
- All high touch points and areas should be disinfected at the beginning and end of the shift. If multiple people share the same work area, then additional cleaning should be conducted throughout the day/shift
 - High touch points and areas include but are not limited to:
 - Desks/table-tops, doorknobs, light switches, handles, shared keyboards, mouse, touch screens, pens/pencils, etc.
- All individuals should clean their personal workstation and items such as computer mouse, keyboard, screens, cellphones
- Use an EPA approved disinfectant, see list here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>, and follow the instructions. Do not deviate from the required surface contact time