Safety Plan for Resumption of Research

Department of Biochemistry

May 15, 2020

Our goal is to resume active research in a phased manner starting in June. The Department of Biochemistry will be following the principles and procedures in adherences to (and exceeding) the guidelines set up the CDC and the University.

In order to limit the introduction of CoV-2 into research areas, we will continue to practice social distancing, wearing masks to protect others, continued with hand washing and disinfection of surfaces. Anyone who suspects that they may have been infected or shows any early signs of infections (fever, etc.) are asked to STAY HOME and let your PI know right away. It is important that we help to protect one another for any possibility of infection.


2. Prior to coming to work, individuals should refer to a brief health questionnaire, to assess their own health and consider whether they have been exposed to the virus. If you feel sick, DO NOT come into research buildings, but DO seek medical attention.

3. Social distancing (no less than 6 foot separation) will be maintained at all times.

4. All researchers MUST wear cloth masks to cover their mouth and nose while they are on campus. However, masks are not necessary INSIDE research labs so long as social distancing is maintained and the number of individuals in the area is less than five.

5. Hand sanitizer will be available in all public areas. In addition, all individuals MUST wash their hands with soap and water before and after entering the lab.

6. Signs have been posted to indicate that common areas (lunchroom, study space, Hager/Rose conference room) in the Department are off limits until further notice.

7. Lab meetings, and student seminars will continue to be held on Zoom.

8. CDC signs regarding COVID-19 precautions MUST be posted in each laboratory.

9. Work schedules are arranged so that no more than THREE individuals may work in a laboratory room at any given time.

10. Work hours are arranged in shifts to provide all staff with laboratory access.

11. Only laboratory work is to be conducted in the laboratory. Other activities, including, but not limited to, analysis, reading, writing, eating, computer use, are to be conducted OUTSIDE of the laboratory space.

12. Consistent with the above, anyone who can work remotely should do so.

13. All labs MUST have a Google doc schedule indicating when personnel are allowed in the lab. This is designed to both maintain the 3 individual per lab AND allow subsequent contact tracing if someone should be identified as being infected.

14. Disinfecting surfaces: all individuals should wipe down laboratory benches, handles, drawer pulls, etc. with 70% isopropanol upon entering and leaving the laboratory.

15. Elevators in RAL are now single occupancy (there are signs posted). Likewise, maintain social distancing when using stairs. There are signs posted at all entrances and exits.

16. F&S will ensure frequent sanitizing of common surfaces and restrooms.