

## **UMass Dartmouth Safe Research Lab Operations Requirements during COVID 19**

1. Only labs that have a safe operations plan that includes detailed protocols that comply with the Massachusetts Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces requirements and has been approved by the Chief Research Officer may perform on-campus research.
2. Only work that requires the use of on-campus facilities should be performed on-campus. All work that can be performed remotely including meetings, experimental design, data analysis, writing and reading must be performed remotely. On-campus time should be kept to a minimum.
3. The fewest number of people possible should occupy a space each day. It is better to have one person in the lab on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a different person on Mondays and Wednesdays, than to have some people in the morning and some people in the afternoon.
4. No one may come to campus who has ANY symptoms of illness of any kind. Screening protocols are being developed and will be deployed when available.
5. Social distancing of at least 6' must be maintained at all times (except if providing emergency assistance).
6. Face coverings that cover the nose and mouth are required for every person that comes to campus. Face coverings must be worn in all common spaces such as entryways, hallways, and restrooms. They must be worn in spaces being shared by more than one person and whenever there is any chance that social distancing may not be maintained.
7. The fewest possible number of different people should go to campus. It is critically important to minimize the risk of transmitting COVID on campus, and one person coming to campus 10 times is a much lower risk for transmission than 10 different people coming to campus one time each. While this policy might conflict with your natural inclination to share access and duties as fairly as possible among lab members, the consequences of a confirmed COVID case would be severe for the lab in question and possibly surrounding labs. Right now, minimizing risk of transmission must take priority over equitable access to the lab.
8. All workplaces and equipment that was used must be sanitized by the person working at the end of each workday using the techniques and products approved by Environmental Health and Safety. Training and sanitization products will be provided.
9. All workplaces and equipment must be sanitized before use changes from one person to another.
10. A log book of lab sanitization activity must be kept and maintained in each lab area.
11. Break rooms and other meeting spaces are closed and are not authorized for use.

12. Work on-campus must be performed on weekdays (Monday through Friday) between the hours of 7AM to 8PM. Special permission to perform work outside those hours may be requested.

13. Trash in laboratories and other research spaces should be bagged by the research personnel, sealed and placed outside the lab entrance for collection as necessary.

14. If biohazardous materials boxes need to be removed, investigators should contact Amy Pacheco or Wayne Leblanc. This should be done early as we expect some delays in getting boxes removed.

15. If gloves are worn, they must be thrown away every time someone leaves a lab space (unless carrying chemicals) and not re-used.

16. If an investigator becomes aware that a person who was on-campus has tested positive for COVID-19, or has been identified as a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, he/she must report that immediately to Human Resources. Such a person will not be allowed to return to campus until cleared according to public health guidance.

These rules may change at any time based on our latest understanding of how to minimize risk for COVID-19 transmission.

Violation of these rules may result in the loss of on-campus privileges for the individual or for the entire lab.

The identification of COVID-19 on campus may result in lab closures for the purposes of disinfection or decontamination.

**General Recommendations:**

Use stairs instead of elevators whenever possible.

Use the building entrance and egress closest to your labs. Minimize your contact with the building and the spaces in it.