Basic Safety Measures for Research Labs Maintaining Critical Functions

Any staff member who becomes sick should stay home until they are asymptomatic. If any employee that has been in the workplace has tested positive for COVID-19, they should call the Occupational Health Services hotline by calling 734-764-8021 and stay at home unless they require medical attention.

- Coordinate with other personnel accessing the lab to minimize time on campus and time spent physically co-working with others.
- Practice social distancing by having people work at least six feet away from each other, i.e., at every other bench.
- Consider consolidating laboratory functions at one central location and increase the frequency of routine cleaning and disinfecting of laboratory and communal areas. Cordon off areas for disinfection using signs or physical barriers such as tape.
- All staff should practice good hand hygiene by washing hands properly, particularly after touching public or common areas including gas and liquid nitrogen tank valves, common benches, and common equipment.
- Do not use laboratory equipment — such as a chemical fume hood or biological safety cabinet — that is alarming or not working properly. Contact Facilities Service Center (734) 647-2059 for service of chemical fume hoods. Contact EHS (734) 647-1143 for service on biological safety cabinets.
- Follow standard procedures for preparing and labeling chemical waste for removal. Labs must initiate the pick-up of hazardous waste. Call EHS-Hazmat at (734) 763-4568 and request a pick-up or fill out a request here.
- Avoid performing high-risk procedures alone in the lab. If you must perform high-risk procedures when you are alone in the lab, notify your supervisor and other lab staff of your plans so they can check in with you to ensure your safety.
- Do not remove or transfer materials from laboratory.
- If you discover a condition that poses a threat to you or to others, such as a fire or a hazardous material release, isolate the hazard (e.g., close the door to the lab), notify occupants in the area, activate the fire alarm, exit the building, and call the UM Police Department at 911 or (734) 647-1131.

If you have any safety or health questions, contact the Department of Environment, Health and Safety (734) 647-1143.