Will EHS be providing personal protective equipment for research labs when research resumes?

It has always been a requirement for the employer to purchase the necessary PPE employees need to do their jobs. Your department or individual Lab Director is responsible for purchasing and providing the items you listed so that you can safely do your job. There is information on the use of face-covering usage on the EHS website: [https://ehs.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Face-Covering-Usage-for-COVID-19.pdf](https://ehs.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Face-Covering-Usage-for-COVID-19.pdf)

Will there be increased ventilation or added air filtration for labs when people return to work?

EHS and U-M Plant engineers have evaluated the number of air changes per hour needed in labs to maintain a healthy work environment. Based upon the nature of the work done in the lab and the chemicals and gases in use, labs are designed to have air change rates set from 6-10 per hour. In addition, labs have “one-pass air” meaning air is not recirculated between rooms. Air serving the building spaces is passed through two sets of filters in the air handlers before being delivered to the spaces in the buildings. Lab air is not recirculated to the building, but exhausted outside of the building through our high-efficiency exhaust systems designed such that re-entrainment of the air is prevented.

Should I prop the door to my lab open to increase the ventilation?

Lab doors need to be kept closed at all times. Laboratories have increased ventilation rates for safety, and are maintained under negative pressure relative to surrounding spaces. Propping doors open impairs the effectiveness of the ventilation system and is also in violation of fire and life safety codes.

I am concerned about coronavirus being on the door handle of my lab. Is it ok to wear gloves to exit and enter the lab?

We need to continue following safe work practices, which include removing PPE such as gloves, prior to leaving the lab. If necessary, use a Kim wipe or paper towel to touch doorknobs and handles. Frequent thorough handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer and routine decontamination of high touch surfaces such as door handles have proven to be effective methods to minimize transmission of coronavirus.

What are some ways we can minimize the number of people working in the lab at the same time?

- Designate 1-2 essential personnel who have the ability to contact all members of the group so they can obtain instruction regarding all laboratory issues that may arise and may be outside of their own individual experiments.
- Utilize technology such as Zoom to connect those working in the lab with those working from home. Regular communication will help maintain the integrity of ongoing research processes.
- Implement an electronic calendar for scheduling the use of common equipment. Allow at least ten minutes between the end of one session and the beginning of another.
If I have to work longer hours than normal and need to bring food, can I have it in the lab if no one else is working?

No, the long-established policy of not eating or drinking in labs and the prohibition on storage of food and beverages in labs, even in closed containers, has not changed. Food and beverages are not permitted in the labs at any time.

When will EHS be resuming lab inspections?

As labs begin to ramp up operations, EHS will be making routine lab inspections to check for adherence to COVID safety plans. Observations of any deviation from normal lab safety practices or obvious safety issues will also be noted in these reports.

We need to order radioactive material. Is the same mechanism in place to order and receive radionuclides?

Yes. Call in for a clearance code. Once we receive the material at RSS, an HP Tech will deliver it to your lab.

I use dosimetry and it has expired. When will I get a current dosimeter?

The new ones were mailed as usual. If the dosimeters aren’t waiting in your mailbox then you should call Mail Services as your building may have been locked and your mail on hold.

Should I do a contamination survey when I return to my lab?

Yes. Even though the lab has not been used in several months, it is a good practice to take smears and survey your lab and document the results in your yellow binder, thus starting from a clean slate. *Since no one has been in the laser lab for months, I can assume the alignment is still OK, right?*

No. It is possible the alignment has drifted since the system was last used. Use caution and wear appropriate laser eyewear for the wavelength and power/energy. Check all optics. If it seems the laser itself is out of alignment, do not take it apart. Contact the manufacturer. If you have any questions, contact the Laser Safety Officer at 734-647-5224.

I need Radiation Safety Training, but I see the class has been postponed until further notice. How could I get this training?

RSS is working to develop a means of providing required radiation safety training within safe distancing guidelines and will have something available soon. In the meantime, we recommend taking RSS103w on MY LINC for now. A version of the required Radiation Safety Orientation Course (RSS006) will be available soon.
How can I request a hazardous waste collection?

Hazardous waste collections are occurring as normal. Requests can be made by calling 734-763-4568 or by completing the [online form](#).

How can I keep my safety glasses from fogging up while wearing a face covering?

- **A simple method to prevent spectacle lenses misting up on wearing a face mask**
  - **How to stop your glasses from fogging up when you wear a mask**
    - Wash glasses with soapy water and shake off the excess. Then, let the spectacles air dry or gently dry off the lenses with soft tissue before putting them back on. Now your glasses shouldn’t mist up when the face mask is worn
  - **Consider purchasing anti-fog solutions**

If you are still having issues with fogging, try pulling up the top of your face covering so your safety glasses are resting on top of your mask. Make sure you don’t pull it up too far. It should still fit under your chin.

*Never* use car anti-fog solutions (they do work but users quickly find out about chemical conjunctivitis), saliva or car wax.

What are the safety precautions needed when using 70% isopropyl alcohol for disinfection?

Isopropyl alcohol is a flammable liquid and is considered a fire hazard. A flammable liquid fire can spread very quickly and intensely. Some general rules of handling include the following:

- Keep flammables/combustible materials away from sources of ignition, open flames, hot surfaces, electrical equipment and static electricity.
- Never heat flammable substances with an open flame.
- Store flammable liquids in National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA) approved cabinets or storage rooms designed for flammable materials.
- Keep containers closed and only transfer chemicals in fume hoods.
- Keep no more than 5 gallons (18.9 Liters) of flammables per room outside of flammable liquid storage cabinets at any time.

In what areas in my building am I required to wear a facial covering?

U-M requires all students, staff, faculty and visitors to wear a face covering that covers the mouth and nose anywhere on U-M property (including the Ann Arbor, Flint and Dearborn campuses as well as properties off campus). This includes when inside buildings, outdoors and on U-M transportation.
In what areas in my building am I required to wear gloves?

Standard rules apply for glove use. Gloves should be worn as usual for lab research, and should not be worn outside the lab. Gloves do not need to be worn to protect against COVID-19. Instead, follow rigorous hand washing protocols and use hand sanitizer.

Do labs that only have one approved person occupying the space need to clean the lab and maintain a cleaning log? Or is this just for lab spaces that have multiple people?

All labs, even those occupied by just one person, should continue to perform daily cleaning and disinfection. This important practice greatly reduces the risk of virus transmission. Cleaning logs will continue to be required for shared equipment and spaces that are designated for shared eating, but are not necessary for other areas within the laboratory.

October 7, 2020

Can people work face to face on opposite sides of a lab bench? Should a barrier be placed between the benches?

Putting up barriers in labs can cause problems with airflow distribution in the room and should be avoided. If it is absolutely necessary to have two people facing each other on opposite sides of the bench, the following measures must be used?

- A lab coat, gloves, safety glasses and face mask with the addition of a face shield must be used when at least 6 feet of social distancing cannot be achieved.
- Use of a face shield does not negate the need to wear safety glasses.
- Face shields must be decontaminated after each use and stored in a clean area, or discarded if not reusable.
- Measures to minimize the time spent working within 6 feet must be employed.

Can people sit or work back to back at desks or lab benches?

People cannot sit or work directly back to back. A 6-foot separation must be maintained unless there is a specific need, and permission for close proximity work has been obtained.