LABS Meeting
RE-Start

May 20th, 2020

*Disclaimer: the contents of this presentation refer to information known to the date above and is subject to change.
AGENDA

Welcome our new Biosafety Officer (BSO): Eric Rouse
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Massachusetts Lab Re-opening
School/Harvard Specifics
EH&S guidance documents
EH&S on-site
Requirements and Trainings
Vendors
Certifications
Questions and Answers
Massachusetts permits labs to open May 25

HSPH
Phase 0: May 25th
Phase 1: June 1

https://www.mass.gov/lists/safety-standards-for-laboratories
HSPH COVID Oversight Team

Goal: provide a resource for you for health and safety concerns specific to COVID-19. You can communicate through an app (coming soon) or in person.
Face coverings are required

- The university will provide disposable face coverings to wear in campus buildings.
- Face coverings are required on all Harvard campuses.
- Massachusetts State policy and guidance
- Cambridge and Somerville have local guidance too.
- "If 60% wear a mask and the mask is 60% effective, we can shut down the virus [that causes COVID-19]." - Atul Guwande, surgeon, writer, Harvard professor, 05/17/2020.
Face coverings are your new elbow, but don’t replace it!

*source control for large droplets, not for aerosols
*Face coverings are not PPE
* [procurement guidance](#)
Commuting

• For cars without the relevant resident permit parking sticker, standard time limit and meter requirements remain in place.

• BTD will not ticket for expired inspection stickers or registrations, given potential challenges for people to renew inspections and registrations at this time. The RMV has also provided extensions for expiring inspections.

"Six feet is not a viral law; there’s no stop sign that the virus won't pass six feet." - Atul Guwande, surgeon, writer, Harvard professor, 05/17/2020.

• Boston resource
• HMS parking passes
EH&S Guidance Documents

EH&S SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Guidance Index

COVID-19 Resources
- Environmental Control Procedures
- Buildings & Facilities
- Construction Support
- Laboratories

EH&S COVID-19 Procedures/Guidance Index

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Upon Request
Lab Specific Guidance

https://www.ehs.harvard.edu/secure/node/8481
Resources

In the event we need to ramp-down again:

- **Laboratory Ramp-Down Checklist**
- **Research Continuity Guidance for Laboratories and Research Facilities**

Resuming Research:

- **Lab Specific Guidance** (previous slide)
- **Re-Usable Safety Glasses/Goggles/Face Shields: Use, Care, and Decontamination**

General information and Guidance from first responders to researchers:

- **American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) COVID-19 Toolbox**

CDC:

- **Cleaning and Disinfection for Households**
- **Symptoms**
Disinfection

- We recommend following the manufacturer’s guide. If not available or not compatible with SARS-CoV-2, we recommend 1% to 3% hydrogen peroxide (ex. Oxivir disinfectants), 70% ethanol solutions, or chlorine-based solutions (10% bleach solution) followed by water rinse or wipe down for PPE disinfection.

- EPA-registered disinfectants approved for SARS-CoV-2, visit List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. After disinfection, rinse, wipe down and/or dry PPE, especially eye and face PPE, before donning. Many disinfectants may have potential health hazards and can be incompatible with other disinfectants and materials typically located in research laboratories. For example, disinfectants can remain on surfaces and cause sensitization and irritation if a final rinse or wipe down is not performed. Always check the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) prior to use. If you have any questions, please reach out to EH&S.
COVID-19 Research

“Any laboratory research related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 should be discussed with your biosafety officer prior to initiation. Much of this research will fall under the scope of the Committee on Microbiological Safety and require committee review prior to initiation.” —EH&S Biosafety COVID-19 page.

This includes questions around shipping and transportation.
• I’ll be on-site ~ once a week with the potential to be available more as needed.
• EH&S will be available throughout the week.

• If you find you have lab specific concerns, other labs probably do too. Reach out and we can work on develop tools to help.
Waste


- Face coverings and general cleaning supplies: regular trash

- Cleaning/disinfecting lab benches: biowaste or chemical hazardous waste (consider other contaminants)

- *There is a difference between general cleaning and lab spills and research clean-up.*
Purchasing & Stock Piling

Considerations:

• Who else might need these supplies?
  Massachusetts government and the CDC are
  advising not using unnecessary PPE that would
  compete with health care workers.
  • Unnecessary PPE defined: determined by
    risk assessment that activity does not
    warrant that level of PPE to allow researcher
    to proceed with activity safely.
  • PPE Assessments

• EH&S PPE Guide Site
  • Consider use rate: was your lab changing their PPE
    regularly? Will COVID-19 change that?
  • We do not recommend using disposable gloves
    while in public spaces while in research buildings.
  • Do not take PPE home from the lab please.
  • Depending on how you are purchasing, you may
    not receive tax-exemptions. Ex. ethanol.

Is the PPE you need for research out-of-stock or not
available? Reach out to EH&S and we can help assess
suppliers or alternative controls.
Receiving and Packages

- Receiving should be operating as normal.
- With shifts, you may not be the one who receives your chemicals.
  - Make plans for receiving and storage.
  - Break-down boxes and recycle.
- Receiving lots of packages can be overwhelming, don’t block egresses.
Most vendors are submitting Continuity/Safety Plans. They don’t go through a COVID-19 Harvard training.

- This includes information for their employees safety as well as yours.

Triumvirate:

- Services have not changed on campus. With regards to extra precautions, the onsite team does wear face coverings at all times.
- If they can visibly see someone they will announce themselves or if the lights are off, they will switch on the lights as a way of announcing their presence in the lab.
- Although it may seem logical to stockpile waste to minimize vendors like Triumvirate in your space, the regulations still apply. Date and submit waste when it is full.
Ventilation

• Where possible, high quality filters have been installed and air recirculation has been optimized for highest fresh air intake.
• Labs are designed to not recirculate air.
• Don’t prop open doors or try to open windows to increase air circulation in labs. Labs are designed to maintain a negative pressure. In addition, door propping poses a fire hazard and security, health, and regulatory risks based on the research.
Fume hoods and Biosafety Cabinets Recertification

Biosafety cabinets-review

Fume hood recertifications are expected to be complete by Friday – May 22\textsuperscript{nd}
Returning to the familiar

New policies will restrict free flow of research.

Activities will take longer (bathroom, eating, research, etc...).

Frustrations are likely.

**Empathy**

**Experiencing** the feelings of another

♥ ♥ ♥

You have similar personal experiences

♥ ♥ ♥

**Sympathy**

**Understanding** the suffering of another

♥ ♥ ♥

You acknowledge another’s circumstances

♥ ♥ ♥

**Recognition**
Questions