

Overview

This guidance is a tool for planning instructional lab operation for Fall 2020. Lab Safety Committee Members are valuable resources in developing instructional lab plans.

Training

All students enrolled in lab classes are expected to complete the following:

- Student COVID-19 Return to Campus Training (Blackboard)
- Fall 2020 Lab Safety Training (Blackboard)
- Department/lab specific safety training

Guiding Principles to Reduce Transmission of Infection in Instructional Labs

- Minimize in-person interactions of all lab occupants.
- Minimize use of shared surfaces and materials.
- Diligently disinfect high-use touch points, surfaces, and equipment (at least 2 times/day).
- Frequently wash hands and do not touch the face.
- Lab instructors and staff serve as examples to students for social distancing and use of PPE.
- Consider keeping an entry and exit log to assist in contact tracings, should that become necessary.
- No eating or drinking in the lab.

Social Distance

Maintain 6 feet of social distance between students. Use tape, Villanova “paw prints”, etc. to delineate 6-foot demarcations on:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bench tops ○ Shared desks/office spaces ○ On the floor ○ Break areas/hallways ○ Shared equipment/specialty lab
<input type="checkbox"/>	One person per hood and one person per biosafety cabinet.

Personal Protective Equipment

<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face covering (cloth or disposable) is required. ○ Safety glasses or goggles (Preferably a pair is assigned to each lab occupant with labeling. If this is not possible, then a procedure to disinfect before and after use must be developed and reviewed with all users of the lab). ○ Lab coat (Recommend assigning a lab coat to each lab occupant). ○ Other standard lab attire (long pants, closed toe shoes, etc.).
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face shields do not replace safety glasses or face coverings. A face covering and safety glasses must be worn with a face shield. ○ Disinfect any shared safety glasses or face shields between use. ○ Lab coats should not be shared. Each student should have an assigned lab coat.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Options to consider managing lab coats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assign a storage location in the instructional lab (drawer) to each student for lab coat and safety glasses storage. ○ Give each student a bag (with name) to store lab coat and safety glasses. ○ Allow students to take lab coats with them (If this option is selected, you MUST record the bar code number for each student). ○ Have students put used lab coats in laundry bin after each class. This is the last choice and may result in lab coats being unavailable for other students. ○ Post sign(s) at lab exits(s) reminding lab workers to remove gloves and wash hands before leaving lab. ○ Face shields may be worn in lab but only if they do not prevent the use of the normal laboratory PPE such as eye protection and hard hats.

Cleaning/disinfection	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Clean and disinfect shared equipment at the beginning and end of each class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students disinfect their bench top area before working in the lab or use a disposable benchtop cover. ○ Students disinfect shared equipment before and after use. ○ Teachers' Assistants or laboratory staff disinfect the entire lab at the end of each lab.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>High touch surfaces should be disinfected before and after use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairs ○ Desktops/benchtops ○ Computer keyboards and monitors ○ Light switches, doorknobs, doors, door push plates ○ Refrigerator/freezer handles and their doors ○ Equipment panels/switches ○ Biosafety cabinet and fume hood sashes and their working surfaces ○ Bio-waste container lids and shared waste containers ○ Commonly used hand tools and small objects (pipettors) ○ Shared PPE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Be careful when disinfecting sensitive equipment to prevent disruption of the equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wear PPE as directed on the disinfectant label and carefully apply disinfectant (TruShot, or other EPA-approved product) wiping to evenly distribute. ○ Discard gloves after each use and clean hands immediately. ○ Allow surfaces to air dry. Discard paper towels and disinfecting wipes into the regular trash. ○ Consider press and seal wrap for shared keyboards or sensitive shared equipment touch surfaces. ○ Remind students not to share laptops, cell phones, writing implements with others in the lab.