

VASCI Department Research Labs Reopening Best Practices

1. BEFORE coming to work:

- a. Please complete the COVID-19 self-check list.
- b. Wash your hands before leaving your home or apartment.

2. When you arrive at UMass:

- a. Cover your face with a disposable or re-wearable mask except when eating. Face shields can be worn but should be used **in addition to, not in place of** a face mask.
- b. Maintain social distancing in public spaces.
- c. Adhere to occupancy limits in public spaces (i.e. elevators and restrooms)

3. When you enter your LAB SPACE:

- a. Wash your hands immediately upon arrive at your lab space.
- b. Put on lab coat and gloves if needed. Disinfect your bench with 70% EtOH.
- c. Observe maximum occupancy limits and social distancing in the lab spaces, as determined by your quadrant PIs.
- d. Adhere to lab entry, exit, and traffic flow patterns, as determined by your quadrant PIs.
- e. Adhere to the “NO GLOVE” policy when leaving the lab to transit to other research spaces (TC rooms, -80C Freezer storage room, autoclave room, cold rooms, GBox/common equipment space, elevator) and wash your hands when you return to your lab space.
- f. **SIGN UP for shared equipment/spaces in advance.** Even if you are only using an instrument/space for a short time, the calendars are the best way to track use and ensure equitable access. Calendars can be found on our VASCI website under the tab “Research and Faculty” and selecting “Department Services” from the pull-down menu.
- g. Minimize unnecessary trafficking inside and outside of lab spaces.
- h. Work efficiently and leave the lab for the day when your experiments are finished. (Complete data analysis, figure preparation, reading, writing, experimental planning, etc. at home).
- i. Do not congregate or store food/drink related items outside labs.
- j. Disinfect your bench with 70% EtOH and wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the lab.

4. When using the OFFICES AND ADJACENT SPACES:

- a. Adhere to the office wing entry, exit, and traffic flow patterns.
- b. Observe maximum occupancy limits and social distancing in the office wing spaces (i.e. mailroom and lunchroom).
- c. Use the lunchroom for storing and heating food, not for eating.
- d. Use the tables set up in the treehouse for eating; observe social distancing and wipe down tables with 70% ethanol when you are finished.

