

JHU Research Laboratory COVID-19 Return to Work Disinfection Guidance

In order to prevent the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in research laboratories, the following procedures must be performed by each lab group each day. Failure to comply will place your lab at risk for spreading the virus which could result in harm to your health, the health of your household, or our community. Health Safety & Environment has the authority to shut down labs that are consistently noncompliant with these health and safety precautions.

BEFORE Coming to Campus

1. **Check for COVID-19 symptoms.** Fever; Cough; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, see full list of symptoms at: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/coronavirus/covid-19-self-checker.html>
2. **Students must call the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Call Center (JHCCC) at 833-546-7546 if you are experiencing symptoms or if you have had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed as COVID-19 positive in the past 14 days. Self-isolate at home if you are sick. If you are sick but not due to COVID-19, notify your supervisor.**
3. **Wear freshly laundered, lab appropriate clothing and a cloth face covering.**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Laboratory Disinfection Protocol

1. **Wash hands** with mild soap and warm water for 20 seconds. **Dry hands.**
2. **Don laboratory PPE: lab coat or apron, nitrile gloves, and safety goggles.**
3. **Assemble disinfectant and wiping materials. Supplies can be obtained through your department or custodial services.**

The Dean's Office has procured an initial supply of washable cloth face coverings, disposable face coverings, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies. Each lab will have access to these supplies prior to the reopening of the lab. Each lab will be provided one cleaning spray bottle of 404 cleaner and four (4) washable cloth rags. Other approved cleaning solutions outlined in the university guide may be substituted as needed.

- a. **Disinfect laboratory surfaces using EPA approved disinfectant, >60% ethanol or >70% isopropyl alcohol, or 1:10 bleach solution.** For consistency, reproducibility, and chemical compatibility, multiple disinfectant use should be avoided. **CAUTION: Alcohols are flammable. Open flames and other ignition sources must be extinguished and secured.**
- b. Disinfect all frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- c. ***If there is visible chemical/other residue on a surface, first remove residue with a separate cloth wetted with water and allow surface to dry before attempting to disinfect***
- d. Spray/apply disinfectant directly to new cloth- minimizing aerosol generation of disinfectant; wipe working and high contact surfaces with cloth- benchtop, fume hood bench and sash, cabinet handles, refrigerator handles, door handles, sink handles, computer keyboard and mouse, etc. On certain electronic devices, several lighter applications with dampened disinfecting cloth may be necessary to reduce damage to the device.
- e. ***Apply enough disinfectant to thoroughly wet surfaces and allow disinfectant to air dry, ensuring that the manufacturers recommended contact time is met***
- f. Contact time for >60% alcohols is a minimum of 1 minute
- g. Disinfecting cloth may be reused until grossly soiled. Dispose of grossly soiled cloths in bio box or regular trash.

- h. When you complete the cleaning/disinfecting process, remove nitrile gloves and dispose into bio box or regular trash, wash hands.
- i. ***Ensure everyone in the lab is using the same disinfectant! Do not switch between different disinfectants and/or bleach***
- j. You may wish to exit the room while the disinfectant vapors dissipate.
- k. You are ready to begin research.

While Performing Laboratory Activities

1. **Maintain social distancing** of 6 feet between other researchers.
2. **Continue to wear** face covering (Note: Cloth face coverings are being worn based on state public health requirements for masking, not to protect against hazards in the lab. Tasks where potential respiratory exposure to hazardous chemicals, biologicals and radioactive materials must be done in fume hoods and/or biosafety cabinets. Follow existing JHU health and safety PPE policies)

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/>

3. **Wash hands** anytime you leave the lab, after you touch shared items, before AND after using the restroom.
4. **Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.**
5. **Monitor your symptoms throughout the day.** Immediately leave laboratory and alert your PI if you develop symptoms at work. Contact the JHCCC for guidance.
6. **Refer to the JHU COVID Positive Space Disinfection Protocol document AND contact HSE if someone in your lab has developed COVID symptoms.**

BEFORE Leaving the Laboratory

1. **Disinfect laboratory surfaces using hospital grade disinfectant.**
2. **Disinfect any personal item you handled in the lab such as mobile phones and computers.**
3. **Doff lab coat and store.** The lab coat should be considered soiled once it is worn. This does not preclude it from being worn for several days before it is laundered. Launder or exchange soiled lab coat weekly per established laboratory procedures.
4. **Remove gloves** and dispose in lab bio box or regular trash.
5. **Wash hands** with mild soap and warm water for 20 seconds. **Dry hands.** Alternatively, use hand sanitizer.

When you get home

1. **Remove face covering.** Either launder cloth face covering or store other mask in paper bag.
2. **Place clothes in dirty laundry. Launder before next use.**
3. **Wash hands** with mild soap and warm water for 20 seconds. **Shower.**
4. **If you develop symptoms at home, call the JHCCC and your supervisor immediately.**
5. **PIs must contact HSE immediately and may refer to the JHU COVID Positive Space Disinfection Protocol document for more information.**

Contact JHU Department of Health, Safety & Environment with questions.

Homewood 410-516-8798

JHMI 410-955-5918

HSEinfo@jhmi.edu