



Keeping Safe During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Protocols for Science Laboratories

The most effective measures against the spread of the Corona Virus are: sanitizing/ washing hands frequently, wearing masks and limiting physical contact with other persons.

General

Hand Hygiene



- Make available facilities for hand sanitizing at points of entry to the laboratory;
- Enforce the hand hygiene protocol for all persons entering and exiting the laboratory;

Entrances/ Exits



- Put structures in place to avoid congestion at the entrance/exit to the laboratory;
- Establish a routine for students to enter and leave the laboratory;

Documents



- Place posters on the corridor outside of the laboratory and on the inside to remind persons of the need to wash/ sanitize hands frequently as well as to avoid/limit physical contact with others;
- Create a cleaning record template (a table will suffice) to keep track of the frequency of cleaning;

In the Laboratory

Capacity



- Limit the number of students undertaking classes in the lab based on the square footage;
- Place students at workstations at least 6 feet apart;
- Post at the entrance the maximum number of people that can safely be in the room at the same time based on the physical distancing protocol;

Students



- Take attendance of all students present in the laboratory;
- Make note of the seating arrangement for EACH class which visits the laboratory;
- Require students to sit back to back or side by side (limit face-to-face arrangements)
- Enforce the wearing of masks if students are less than 6 feet apart;
- Limit or eliminate group work if it will require students to be less than three - six feet apart for more than fifteen minutes;

Items and Surfaces



- Encourage all persons to desist from sharing common supplies (e.g. pens, staplers, laboratory equipment and materials);
- Remind persons to avoid, as far as possible, contact with objects or surfaces used or touched by other people (e.g. door handles) and to wash/ sanitize their hands after contact with such surfaces or objects;

Cleaning



- Ensure that high-touch surfaces (counters/ desks and chairs) and high traffic areas as well as all equipment and materials used are cleaned/sanitized with appropriate chemicals between classes;
- Display cleaning record chart in the laboratory for documenting of cleaning routine and frequency of cleaning;
- Ensure that cleaning records are frequently inspected.