



Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research

MEMORANDUM

CHANGES TO LABORATORY ACCESS AND CLEANING/DISINFECTING

May 17, 2021

Colleagues,

Based on today's [message](#) from S&T's Incident Command Team regarding updates in COVID-19 guidance for students, faculty and staff, effective immediately:

- *Masks and social distancing are no longer required for vaccinated researchers in a lab.*
- *The occupancy limit for research laboratories is now 35 or fewer researchers per lab at any time.*
- *We will also follow all additional guidance in the [message](#) from S&T's Incident Command Team.*

In addition, in collaboration with Dr. Jonathan Minor, Medical Director of Student Health Services, we are modifying previous guidance regarding cleaning and disinfecting high-touch locations and equipment in research laboratories. The new guidance is as follows:

- *In the multi-user lab setting, the use of gloves is recommended and will prevent the need for routine cleaning of surfaces before and after individual use.*
- *Schedule routine cleaning intervals for multi-user lab surfaces, depending on usage volume, which is recommended to occur at least once on days of use.*
- *Surface and handle cleaning should occur when surfaces or equipment are visibly contaminated.*
- *Lab surfaces that are used by a single user (dedicated lab bench) should not need to be cleaned routinely unless visibly soiled, as would have occurred as standard practice before COVID.*
- *Use an EPA-approved disinfectant that is effective against COVID-19. The list of EPA-approved disinfectants can be found at the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.*



- *Wear appropriate PPE when using cleaning/disinfectant products. This includes safety glasses and chemical-compatible impervious gloves. Reference the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for further information on PPE or any other hazard information. Contact Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at any time with questions. (573) 341-4305 or ehs@mst.edu.*
- *Use care with delicate equipment to avoid damage. Cleaning sprays may not be appropriate to use or could damage certain electronic equipment. In these cases, an approved disinfectant wipe may be appropriate for more delicate tasks.*

Please note that we recommend that all laboratory staff continue to follow the [previous guidance for personal hygiene and hand washing and sanitizing](#). Namely:

- *Frequently wash hands (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) throughout the day*
- *If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol*
- *Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing*
- *Throw used tissues in the trash*
- *Wash hands with soap and water immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing the nose*
- *Maintain a personal supply of hand sanitizer that contains 60%-95% alcohol. Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in many high-traffic areas across campus.*
- *Wear personal protective equipment, as appropriate in the laboratory.*

With best Miner wishes,



Costas Tsatsoulis

Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies