

University of Rhode Island

College of Pharmacy

COVID-19 Reopening- Common practices for all labs

Background

Layered Strategies

To minimize the risk of infection, a layered approach involving multiple strategies will be practiced. The approaches below are required for those involved in research at the University of Rhode Island (URI) College of Pharmacy.



1. Health Screening

All laboratory personnel will self-evaluate their medical condition prior to reporting to their lab. They will not report to work if they exhibit any COVID symptom.

Reminders:

- For symptoms see: [CDC Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
- Adhere to URI requirements for symptom reporting. **Requirements are likely to change.**
- Report situations where a member of your household has tested positive.
- Visitors with unknown infection status will not be allowed in the laboratory
- All faculty, staff and students keep daily logs of their personal contacts



2. Masks

Face Coverings will be used in all URI buildings and laboratories.

Reminders:

- Free face coverings will be available from URI, if not part of standard lab equipment.



3. Physical Distancing

Laboratory personnel will remain at least six feet apart. This is interpreted as up to 5 researchers per standard lab module in Avedisian Hall plus one person in culture facilities at a time.

Reminders:

- Stagger work schedules (e.g., work alternate days, one group starts earlier, one group starts later) to reduce the number of staff/students in the lab at any one time. This will be utilized when more than 6 researchers work in any one lab.
- Group meets will continue to be held via WebEx
- Use online calendar to book the animal procedure room (180 D) in Avedisian Animal Facilities with maximal 2 persons in the room at a time.
- Refer to uri.edu/pharmacy/covid19plan for occupancy limitation for research rooms in Avedisian Hall.



4. Hygiene and Cleaning

The lab will encourage the washing of hands and disinfecting surfaces frequently. Gloves will be worn as appropriate.

Reminders:

- The lab will disinfect laboratory space (e.g., high touch surfaces, bench tops) at least daily.
- Facilities staff will disinfect building common areas and high touched surfaces frequently.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each lab.
- No sharing of personal items
- Sanitize hands before touching any surfaces outside personal desk space



5. Safety Culture & Communication

The lab PI will host safety meetings to train all lab personnel in these safety precautions.

Reminders:

- Lab personnel will be encouraged to “speak up” with ideas or safety concerns.



6. Evaluate the Science

As the science evolves, we will evaluate and adjust accordingly

Reminders:

- Research activity plans should be flexible enough to enable the swift ramp down of research to an earlier phase in response to changing circumstances.