

EMT LAB REOPENING GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

The goal of this document is to provide guidance and resources to assist and facilitate EMT laboratories safely resuming research activities throughout the Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the reopening process, beginning June 15, 2020. The following guidance, references, and links to resources have been collected to facilitate the individual reopening plans approved for individual EMT laboratories.

The Prime Directive remains the overarching guiding principle:
“All work that can be conducted remotely should continue to be conducted remotely.”

1) Review and follow guidance provided by the “OSU Pandemic Resumption Plan”:

OSU has developed a comprehensive plan to gradually begin resumption of onsite activity. The plan is designed to be nimble and responsive to current community health conditions and guidance from state and local health authorities. The primary resource for OSU’s Pandemic Resumption Plan can be found at <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/pandemic-resumption-planning>. Be sure to check frequently for updates.

2) All personnel returning to research **MUST** complete the following training **PRIOR** to returning to work on campus:

a. **Pandemic – Slowing the Spread Program:**

- i. Access the training at <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/coronavirus>
- ii. Scroll down to the list of submenus and click on the ‘plus’ sign to the left of the Training Submenu.
- iii. Select the item labeled as ‘Pandemic – Slowing the Spread Program.’ See a screenshot of the EH&S page illustrating this, below in the EH&S Guidance section.
- iv. Alternatively, you can reach the Training Module directly via the BRIDGE webpage, at: <https://oregonstate.bridgeapp.com/learner/programs/94>.
If it doesn’t show up automatically, search for it and add it to your program. It should take about 10 minutes to complete. Upon passing the exam at the end, email the certificate to your lab supervisor to include with your other training records/safety manual.

b. **Safety Training for staff working alone in a laboratory:**

While working alone in the lab minimizes COVID-19 spread, it can increase the risk of other hazards in the laboratory. Personnel working alone in research labs must view the EH&S video about working alone in the lab: <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/working-alone>.

Each research lab group PI should communicate to lab staff regarding which processes can and cannot be performed while working alone (hazardous processes should never be done alone); whether approval is needed; and developing and implementing a communication plan to obtain assistance if needed for staff or trainees working in the lab alone.

c. **Safety/Workplace Training for staff working at home:**

Employees should review and complete this checklist for continuation of remote work activities: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/keep-working/employee-checklist>

3) COVID-19 Prevention in the Workplace and Reopening Planning - EH&S Guidance:

Prior to Reopening, each EMT laboratory PI must have obtained approval to resume research by submitting the following form.

Research Resumption Request: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/research-resumption-request>

4) EH&S Guidance and Protocols for Reopening:

a. General guidance:

The University has created a website to facilitate access to important safety information about COVID-19 for OSU researchers, teachers, and other workers. The resources listed on this page link to relevant training and guidance to minimize the potential for illness and transmission of the virus. Please visit <https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/coronavirus>.

The screenshot shows the Oregon State University Environmental Health and Safety website. The header includes the OSU logo and the text "Oregon State University". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, PROGRAMS & SERVICES, TRAINING, REPORT SAFETY CONCERN, HOW DO I..., RESOURCES, and ABOUT US. The main content area is titled "COVID-19 Health & Safety Resources" and contains a paragraph explaining the purpose of the webpage and a link to contact EH&S staff. Below the text is a navigation bar with four icons: "KEEP WORKING" (wrench and screwdriver), "CONTACT EH&S" (question mark), "TRAINING" (book icon), and "COVID" (virus icon). The "Training" section is expanded, showing a list of resources including "Protecting Yourself in the Workplace from COVID-19" and "Request Zoom Training".

KEEP WORKING **CONTACT EH&S** **TRAINING** **COVID**

- + **Guidance**
- + **Communication/Print Resources**
- **Training**
 - › Protecting Yourself in the Workplace from COVID-19
 - › [Request Zoom Training](#) (provided by Matt Philpott, Ph.D., RBP OSU Biosafety Officer)
 - OSU Bridge Training Modules:
 - › [Pandemic – Slowing the Spread Program](#)

b. Specific Policies for EMT Shared Spaces:

- i. Front office - entry by invitation only
 - Visitor access only by appointment (post phone on door)
 - Keep doors locked: front office door, and door between front office and mail room
- ii. Room 1007c (small conference room) – closed during Stage 1
- iii. Room 1019A/B by prior appointment only for stage 1 (through Mary or Shawn)
- iv. Room 1066 (autoclave and ice) –follow instructions posted on door:
 - Announce yourself before entering
 - One (1) person in the room at a time
 - Use paper towel to open ice machine and hold ice scoop
 - Wipe down autoclave pad and door handle with alcohol after use

c. Specific Policies for OSU Shared/CORE Facilities and Spaces: (CGRB, SARL, ATL, NPIC, Chem Stores)

EMT personnel entering these spaces are obligated to learn and adhere to the policies implemented by each of these facilities.

5) Employee Health

Employees are expected to self-assess for health status on a daily basis prior to coming to campus.

If you're sick, STAY HOME!!
Do not risk the health of your co-workers.

Workers are encouraged to self-monitor their health prior to coming into the laboratory. Staff and students should not feel pressured to work when ill, and all necessary back-up systems and support will be provided.

Hand-washing and social distancing are co-priorities that will be highly emphasized. The handling of shared spaces and equipment will be defined within each group (e.g., laboratory), and appropriate cleaning reagents and protocols will be provided as per research resumption plans.

If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately. For additional information on reducing COVID-19 transmission when you are sick, please consult with the CDC guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

6) Enhanced handwashing, cleaning and sanitizing procedures, and appropriate use of PPE:

Each lab should adhere to the handwashing, disinfection and PPE guidelines established by OSU EH&S as applicable to their own research activities:

- a. **Handwashing:** <https://oregonstate.bridgeapp.com/learner/programs/d6d35abc/enroll>

- b. **Physical Distancing:** https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/sites/ehs.oregonstate.edu/files/pdf/physicaldistancing_researchlabs_covid19_june2020.pdf
- c. **Use of face coverings:** https://policy.oregonstate.edu/UPSM/04-041_COVID19_face_covering
- d. **Cleaning and Disinfecting:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>

7) Student Resources

- a. **OSU COVID-19 Resources and Updates:** OSU is developing plans to resume in-person teaching in late summer and for fall term in order to enable a gradual restart of on-site university activities statewide. You can find more at: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/>.
- b. **Coronavirus Updates for Graduate Students:** This page contains information specific for graduate students and their advisors. For more information visit: <https://gradschool.oregonstate.edu/coronavirus-info-graduate-students>.
- c. **EMT Website:** Our departmental website includes a collection of links to various resources relevant for our student community, ranging from university websites related to Covid-19, to sites providing advice on professional development. Browse down the list available at: <https://emt.oregonstate.edu/emt/academics/covid-resources-and-events>.

8) Signage Resources for Laboratory and other EMT spaces:

- a. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer a collection of print-only materials, developed to support Covid-19 recommendations. All materials are free for download here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html?Sort=Date%3A%3Adesc>.
- b. We have collected a few materials that we have found useful for posting in our buildings. They are found in a publicly available Box folder, for easy access. To download the following materials, visit: <https://oregonstate.box.com/s/cqkl2iz5qeo8wkjhipgi25xvssoevsu9>.