



RESEARCH RESUMPTION SAFETY PLAN

This Protocol may be modified and updated from time to time in accordance with ongoing guidance from public health authorities.

DATE: May 15, 2020

Activities for safe reopening of research locations on campus and in the field will be implemented in three sub-stages.

Sub-Stage I: Encompasses all tasks that must be performed remotely in preparation for return to campus and return to field research.

Sub-Stage II: Encompasses tasks that must be completed once researchers return to campus and **prior to** the resumption of research activities. Sub-Stage II does not apply to field research.

Sub-Stage III: Resumption of research activities on campus upon completion of Sub-Stages I and II tasks. Resumption of field research activities upon completion and approval of Sub-Stage I tasks.

SUB-STAGE I: REMOTE ACTIVITIES TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE RETURN TO CAMPUS

- Material Review: The following materials must be reviewed by the Principal Investigator (PI):
 - [Principles for the Resumption for the Return to On-Campus Research](#)
 - [COVID-19 Protection in Research: Sub-Stage 1 Guidelines](#)
- BioRAFT Tasks: The following tasks must be completed within BioRAFT. Instructions for accessing BioRAFT and completing tasks are available [here](#).
 - BioRaft Tasks:
 - The PI must complete and update their BioRAFT laboratory profile This includes:
 - Setting up their BioRAFT profile, if pending.
 - Completing their 2020 annual confirmation of lab hazards and lab members in their BioRAFT profile, if pending.
 - PIs and their research team members must complete all expired safety training as required by federal, state, and local regulations. The researcher's homepage in BioRAFT provides a list of pending courses as well. In addition, alerts will be sent to all researchers who are required to complete training, with a link to the course.
 - PIs must ensure the review and update of emergency contact information on their NFPA door signs for all laboratory locations in BioRAFT.
 - PIs must confirm that their research protocols follow [Northeastern University's Chemical Hygiene Plan](#), and that lab-specific safety protocols and standard operating procedure documents are available to all team members, properly implemented, with documents loaded into the "documents" tab in their BioRAFT lab.

- Where applicable, PIs must ensure that their biosafety registrations are up to date and approved.
- Application to resume research:
 - PIs must complete and submit the [Research Resumption Application](#)

SUB-STAGE II: ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES TO BE COMPLETED ONCE CAMPUS ACCESS IS APPROVED AND BEFORE RESUMPTION OF RESEARCH OPERATIONS

- Sub-Stage II on-campus laboratory preparation will require that all research faculty and students as well as research spaces conform with additional university-wide COVID-19 guidelines. as well as the completion of a Laboratory Reopening Checklist for Sub-Stage II, hosted on BioRAFT’s Inspection Module, and will require a confirmation of the following:
 - Certifications are up to date for critical engineering controls with an emphasis on biosafety cabinets and fume hoods.
 - Emergency response equipment/materials are available and operational with an emphasis on spill-response materials, first aid supplies, eyewashes, and safety showers.
 - All hazardous material storage locations and containers have been inspected, with an emphasis on high hazard materials, such as peroxide-forming chemicals.
 - Satellite accumulation areas are properly set up, free of leaks, and ready for accumulation and storage of hazardous waste.
 - Verification that all Stage I activities have been completed.
- Instructions for accessing BioRAFT and completing tasks are available [here](#).
- Additional university-wide COVID-19 guidelines for faculty, staff, and students returning to campus is forthcoming.

SUB-STAGE III: RESEARCH REOPENING AUTHORIZATION AND APPROVAL

The associate deans for research in conjunction with the associate vice provost for education and research safety will review completion status of Stage I and Stage II activities. Please plan on one week for all submitted documentation to be reviewed.

Approval for resuming research activities will be conducted and communicated by the applicable associate dean for research.

RESEARCH RESUMPTION ASSISTANCE

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) has prepared guidance for completing Sub-Stage I and Sub-Stage II requirements. Departmental safety officers and the EH&S Laboratory Safety team will be available to aid PIs as they open their research laboratories and associated support locations.

**** BioRAFT: Northeastern University uses the BioRAFT platform for Laboratory Risk Management. The BioRAFT platform manages the census of all laboratory members, risk assessment of laboratory hazards, chemical inventories, hazardous waste management and pick-ups, training and training compliance, equipment inventories, biological material registrations, and inspections.***