



## **COVID GUIDELINES: OFF CAMPUS RESEARCH**

### **LOCATION APPLICABILITY**

For this guidance document, off-campus means:

1. Field work performed outside and away from Northeastern campuses. (In Boston or Outside of Boston)
2. Research performed in non-Northeastern Facilities (in Boston or Outside of Boston)
3. Research performed outside of Boston, Massachusetts, or the United States.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

It will be the responsibility of the PI to research and determine the COVID requirements in the off-campus location where research is performed. If not required by supervisors in the area of research operation, it is recommended that COVID protection plans be shared with applicable persons or offices in the facilities/areas where the research will be performed. It will also be the responsibility of the PI to attach COVID requirements for the non-Northeastern research location as a part of the Research Resumption Application.

### **RESEARCH RESUMPTION APPLICATION AND COVID PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to completing all sections of the Research Resumption Application, a plan for implementing a daily wellness check is required. The following information must be included with your Research Resumption Application:

1. Daily COVID wellness screening of researchers and human subject participants (if applicable) is required. If any person associated with the research answers ‘yes” to a wellness question, the individual is prohibited from participating in research until quarantine requirements for the location are met. In addition, researchers exhibiting symptoms must notify their supervisor of their status.
  - a. Applicable Symptoms. Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?
    - i. New loss of smell or taste
    - ii. New or worsened muscle aches
    - iii. Fever, feeling feverish or shaking chills
    - iv. New or worsened cough
    - v. New or worsened shortness of breath

- vi. New or worsened sore throat
- vii. Diarrhea/vomiting

b. In the past fourteen (14) days, have you had close contact with someone who is confirmed as having COVID-19?

i. A close contact is defined as a person who:

1. Provided care for the individual, including healthcare workers, family members or other caregivers, or who had similar close physical contact without consistent and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
2. Lived with or otherwise had close prolonged contact (within 6 feet/2 meters) with the person while they were infectious.
3. Had direct contact with infectious bodily fluids of the person (e.g., was coughed or sneezed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

c. In the past 14-days, have you received a positive COVID test?

2. Human Subject Research: Northeastern COVID guidelines for human subject research must be followed. Human subject guidelines can be found at this [link](#).
3. All researchers working with other persons (including human subjects) and in proximity to campus, must participate in COVID testing to ensure that they have tested negative for COVID within 72 hours of working with others
4. Researchers must keep track of all persons involved with the research as well as research locations visited for COVID contact tracing purposes.

If you have questions, please contact:

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*\*See below for additional COVID-19 protection tips.*

## **COVID-19 PROTECTION TIPS**

**SHARED SPACE:** Access for shared space should be managed in conjunction with applicable PIs who will also use this space for research to ensure a 6-foot distance between individuals can be maintained.

**Facial Coverings:** Facial coverings are always required to be worn by all people to minimize the spread of COVID. Facial Coverings should be worn regardless of physical distance from others and even when alone if inside a building.

**OTHER PPE AND PHPE:** When gloves are used, they must be removed and disposed of before leaving the research area. Hands must be washed after removing gloves. NOTE: Gloves do not eliminate the need to disinfect equipment and surfaces after use.

For occasions where in-person consultation, interviewing, training, or teamwork must occur, all persons closer than 6 feet must wear a facial covering and a face shield, safety glasses with side shields, or goggles. The time spent closer than 6 feet should not last longer than is necessary.

If safety glasses, goggles, or face shields are used, they must be wiped down before putting them on and after taking them off. Hands must be sanitized before donning or removing any safety gear used on the face or head, including donning and doffing facial coverings.

**HYGIENE:** Frequent hand washing is required. Hands must be washed after touching common surfaces outside of the lab such as in bathrooms and pantry areas.

**SHARED EQUIPMENT:** Shared equipment must be wiped down before and after each use. Where possible, shared equipment should be labeled reminding researchers to wipe down equipment before and after use. Disinfectant wipes should be available at or near all shared equipment. Individuals must wash hands after using and disinfecting shared equipment.

**PERSONAL EQUIPMENT** that is not shared with others must be sanitized at the start and end of each day. Disinfectant wipes should be available for individuals to use for this purpose.

**DISINFECTANTS:** The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has created a list of effective disinfectants to be used. Only disinfectants listed on the USEPA N List. If a non-listed disinfectant is to be used, proof will be available to show that it meets USEPA criteria for use against COVID-19. Researchers responsible for disinfecting equipment and surfaces will be provided an SDS and instructions for the disinfectant to be used and will follow all manufacturer requirements for use. More information is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>

#### **ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES:**

Researchers will work from home whenever possible. Activities such as team meetings will be held remotely when possible. Computer work will be performed remotely when possible

Researchers will be trained on the specific COVID-19 requirements as stated in this application and will follow requirements whenever in the research space.

Researchers will follow all federal, state, local, COVID-19 requirements, including but not limited to:

- Following all facility entry and exit requirements.
- Following all required workplace safety protocols.
- Being aware of and following COVID-19 requirements in areas of research off campus