Stat/ActSci Department return to on-campus research activities- Covid-19 protection guidelines

May 2020

The safety and well-being of our students, staff and faculty is a priority. Given the current COVID-19 crisis, successful restart of on-campus research operations can only be done with precautionary measures to keep everybody working on-site safe and informed. These measures include personal exposure and reporting guidance, physical distancing guidance and disinfecting protocols.

The return to research activities is a privilege that can be revoked at any time.

- All PIs and personnel who are granted permission to pursue on-campus research have a duty of care for themselves and others to protect all from the transmission or exposure to the virus.

General precaution rules:

- Maintain the recommended distance of 2 meters at any time (in offices, hallways).
- Regularly clean and disinfect with 70% ethanol any used surfaces (desk surfaces, door knobs, etc.).
- If you have access to masks (surgical or reusable), please use them.
- If you feel sick or experience any symptoms (including seasonal allergies) - stay home and inform your supervisor as soon as possible.

Common areas

All common areas such as lunch rooms, graduate student/staff lounges remain closed. Lunch/coffee breaks should be taken individually outside of the building and any gathering of groups must be avoided.

Stairwells and Elevators

Most stairwells will be designated for one-way traffic. You may need to take a detour to reach your designation. When encountering others, walk at the right side and do not stop.

- Take stairs instead of elevators if possible.
- One person at a time in elevators.
• Use your elbow or a pen to punch elevator buttons rather than your finger.
• Exiting elevator: If someone is in the hallway, allow them to pass before entering hallway.

Work Areas

Given the current COVID-19 prevention procedures, all research activities regardless of their nature should be done following these protocols. As such:

• Hands must be washed for at least 20 seconds upon entry.
• Prior to use wipe down the work area using disinfectant wipes or a 70+% alcohol solution.
• Remove and dispose of gloves before leaving the work area.
• Gloves should be worn in any of the shared spaces/facilities, equipment rooms, etc.

Work areas can only open if the supervisors can ensure that at any time physical distancing of minimum 2 meters is followed between individuals.

• If working alone, the guidelines of Policy GP 39 (Working alone or in isolation) must be followed.
• Upon exiting any work area, if someone is in the hallway, allow them to pass to maintain safe distancing.