

UNLV Restarting Research Safe Laboratory Practices

These guidelines are subject to change to align with directives from the Governor, NSHE UNLV Chancellor, and UNLV President.

Principal Investigator _____

College _____

Department _____

To minimize risk to public health while performing research, students, staff and faculty are expected to adhere to public, state, and federal health guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

This form outlines the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for research that will be required to maintain safe laboratory practices. The SOP will focus on research conducted in a laboratory and will be defined by the Principal Investigator (PI) before work can be initiated. In cases where the laboratory remained active, the SOP will be required for the laboratory to remain open.

The Principal Investigator is responsible, to the best of their ability, to promote and enforce acceptable public health behaviors and provide research SOPs that document the policies and procedures that will be utilized in the laboratory to ensure safe practices.

PIs must develop their own research SOPs that outline the following safe laboratory practices to minimize the impact of COVID-19:

- Describe how exposure to COVID-19 will be mitigated through social distancing guidelines in the laboratory. What are the social distancing metrics being utilized? Where were they obtained?

- Define appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the proposed research. If gloves will not be used, please define proper handwashing practices and frequency that will be utilized instead.
 - Is required PPE currently available in sufficient supply to support the research SOP requirements? Has an appropriate supply chain been identified? What are the possible limitations in PPE that might be encountered?
- How often will occupants monitor health and how will determinations regarding building entry and participation in face-to-face research activities be made? How will access be limited if a researcher or participant develops or displays symptoms of COVID-19 including but not limited to fever, tiredness, and dry cough? As a rule, researchers and participants will not participate in face-to-face research activities if their temperature exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- List work surfaces and other possible sites in the laboratory that must be decontaminated at the beginning and end of work shift and how it will be documented.
- Specify which, if any, PPE will be allowed outside the laboratory and how it will be maintained and decontaminated if taken out of the lab.
- Define steps for non-compliance with SOPs including when lab access is removed and reinstated.
- What contact information is in place for researcher questions? Post contact deemed important by the PI for safety (e.g., RMS).

A PI's failure to establish and follow the SOPs outlining safety guidelines could be detrimental to public health efforts and could influence the ability to perform research or other tasks at UNLV.

Researchers must be provided an SOP for safe laboratory operation for minimizing the impact of COVID-19 in shared laboratory space. A folder containing a copy of all laboratory SOPs should be available in the lab for review at any time. All researchers must acknowledge and sign a copy of the SOPs they will be using prior to conducting research.

The PI must be assured that they will comply with the policies and procedures established for the laboratory and research groups utilizing the space. The PI will maintain and provide a list of researchers with signed SOPs upon request to their Department Chair and Dean for laboratory research to be initiated or continued.

Please provide a request to open a research laboratory that includes the following:

- **Lab Location.**
- **Names and titles (i.e., postdoc, graduate student, etc.) of all researchers that will be utilizing the laboratory.**
- **A copy of the SOP.**
- **A signed SOP document for each researcher listed which outlines the safety requirements.**
- **A list of PPE required for each researcher and current supplies.**

The following signatures are required to initiate the opening of a laboratory.

PI Signature

Date

Please route all supporting documents and this form to the Department Chair and Dean of your department and college for their signatures.

Department Chair Signature

Date

Dean Signature

Date