COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines for Research

December 2021

1. Resources
Review and maintain all required permits and training
Consult with https://ehs.utoronto.ca/ if necessary
Review and understand the following documentation:
https://www.utoronto.ca/utogether
https://research.utoronto.ca/covid-19

2. Vaccination status or approved exemption
- As of September 6th, 2021, all Faculty/staff/students must upload vaccination status/approved exemption to UCheck, once, for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- For all UofT externals (external postdocs, students, visitors, service technicians etc.), the COVID acknowledgement form must be completed and submitted to EHS office AND legal counsel.
- Information regarding UofT Rapid screening program, including details on who must participate, frequency of testing, uploading of results, can be found here.

3. Protocol for Research Space Use
a. General:
   - SCREENING: You must perform UCheck screening either online or by paper assessment before accessing any on-campus facilities. Only come to campus if you receive “green” status. Follow guidance in UCheck if you receive “red” status. Visitors must also complete screening by paper assessment and the log must be kept by PI for 30 days.
   - DISTANCING: Physical distancing is no longer required in any teaching spaces, including office areas and meeting rooms. However, this does not include washrooms or collaboration areas, or while eating.
   - MASKS: Non-medical masks must be always worn, regardless of physical distancing, except when eating in a socially distant location or when alone in a private space (e.g., PI office). See current policy here. Please note that your mask must be kept on in the open office/lab areas even while seated at your desk.
   - SIGNAGE: Follow all posted signage, including room occupancy limits, directional arrows, exit/entrance posters, etc.
   - SANITIZATION: Clean/sanitize common spaces after use - research office will supply disinfectant for use in the collaboration space to be used on tables, counters, and appliances
b. Specific:
   - LAB AND OFFICE SPACES: Please note that it is the responsibility of each PI to ensure that their research personnel follow relevant distancing and mask guidelines in accordance with the General Workplace Guidelines (GWG). Please keep in mind:
- The occupancy limit for private offices is 3 people (wearing masks). Larger meetings should be held in meeting rooms or virtually.

- **MEETING ROOMS**: Meetings rooms can now be used, however, when using the meeting rooms, please also keep in mind:
  - Meeting rooms are requested through your outlook calendar and subject to availability.
  - Please do not use the meeting rooms without a booking online.

4. Procedures in the Event of a “Red” status, Probable or Confirmed COVID-19 Case
   - Guidance for confirmed or probable COVID case, and “Red” status can be found [here](#).
   - Any faculty member, librarian, staff, or student who tests positive for COVID-19 should immediately take the following actions:
     - Report this result directly to U of T’s Occupational Health Nurse by email at [ehs.occhealth@utoronto.ca](mailto:ehs.occhealth@utoronto.ca).
     - Report their sickness to their manager in accordance with [departmental processes](#).

5. Other considerations
   - **Interaction of Research spaces with clinical spaces (on-site/off-site)**:
     All graduate students in clinical specialty programs must follow all clinic **doffing protocols** before entering the research labs. Individuals entering the research space from outside facilities must follow the same procedures. **No scrubs are to be worn in CL2 (Containment Level 2) space**.
   - **The Collaborative Advanced Microscopy Laboratories of Dentistry** ([https://www.camilod.ca/](https://www.camilod.ca)):
     Visit the CAMiLoD web page for specific instructions to become an approved user and to access the facilities. PDF versions of the guidelines and SOPs specific to the current COVID-19 pandemic will be posted on the CAMiLoD web page under a non-public link that will be sent via email to the approved users.
   - **SEM, histology, mechanical testing**: Now administrated by CAMiLoD – see above for access or use of service.
   - **Questions**: Should be directed to [research@dentistry.utoronto.ca](mailto:research@dentistry.utoronto.ca)