

COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines for Research

UPDATE: January 6, 2022

In response to Omicron, the University has implemented new measures. Please see the most recent update to the University's research operations [here](#). Notably, this memo includes critical updates for human face-to-face research and a requirement that **all** work that can be done remotely, must now be done remotely.

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>

<https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-General-Workplace-Guideline.pdf>

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:** ****New**** Physical distancing >2meters is again required in any spaces at all times, including labs, open and private office areas and meeting rooms. Where physical distancing cannot be maintained due to the nature of the research activity, please [contact EHS](#) for an assessment
- **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:
 - ****New**** The occupancy limit for private offices is governed by the ability to maintain >2m physical distancing.
- **MEETING ROOMS:** ****New**** Meetings rooms will be closed until at least January 31, 2022.

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.
 - 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/>):**

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