

## COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines for Research

**UPDATE:** March 2, 2022

In response to the reduced restrictions that have recently been implemented in Ontario, the following Protocols and Guidelines apply until further notice:

### 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 **no longer required** in any spaces that are considered **instructional. These spaces are currently limited to Research Laboratories.** Physical distancing is still required in all other areas.
- **MASKS:** 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 [on face masks](#) [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 governed by the ability to maintain >2m physical distancing.
- **MEETING ROOMS:** The occupancy limit for meeting rooms is governed by the ability to maintain >2m physical distancing.

**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/>):**

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)