Rules of Laboratory Engagement During the COVID-19 Crisis

As we move to a more virtual university due to the COVID-19 situation, we have agreed to allow certain laboratories to accommodate students with the caveat that students should largely be working remotely if possible. For those times that students are permitted in the labs, the following general rules must be followed at all times (individual labs may have additional rules that are to be followed).

1. Make sure that you are using the sign in/sign out sheets that are provided. We need to know who has been in the labs and when in case there are any cases of COVID 19 given that, if there are cases, we need to inform others who used the lab that they should self-quarantine. If we discover that you have not been signing in, you will be banned from future use of the lab until further notice.

If you have any symptoms of COVID 19 (cough, fever, fatigue, difficulty of breathing), do not use the lab until you have been cleared by medical professionals. It appears that some people with COVID 19 have other symptoms so if you feel sick at all, please do not use the lab until you feel better and are convinced that you do not have the virus. Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-in-colorado/about-covid-19/isolation-and-quarantine) directs you stay in isolation until you’ve been fever free for 72 hours, your symptoms have improved (cough has improved) and at least 7 days have passed since the onset of your symptoms. It is important that we protect each other from any illness right now, so stay home and rest.

2. You must have permission of the person in charge of the lab you want to use – no exceptions.

3. If the lab is restricted to use only with a buddy in the lab or in a nearby lab, you are required to ensure that a buddy is present. Again, no exceptions. If this is a requirement and you are found without a buddy you will be banned until further notice.

4. While you are working in the lab, you are required to maintain a distance of six feet from other users, and be cautious about touching surfaces that have been previously touched. Again, no exceptions and violation will result in your dismissal from the lab until further notice.

5. You must have proper PPE to use the lab depending on the laboratory rules. If you are found using the lab without proper PPE, you will be banned until further notice.

6. Outside the lab (in the hallways, restrooms, or anywhere on campus where you be pass near other people), you must wear a fabric face covering. Helpful instructions for making one can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html.

7. You are expected to leave the lab in better condition than you find it. If we discover unsafe or poor lab practices, you will be banned from the lab until further notice. You need to be a “good citizen” of the lab.

8. If your work can wait, it should. Focus on remote portions of your work like literature review and paper writing if at all possible.

9. Upon leaving, please wipe down any work surfaces that you touch with antiseptic wipes if available. EHS has a handful of spray bottles that they can fill with 70% IPA for researchers that want to clean their work surfaces. This will be as supplies last (the are trying to get more bottles).

10. Do not remove supplies from the lab for your personal use.

Your safety and the safety of the other users of the lab is our number one priority. If you intend to access the lab, it is incumbent on you to follow all these rules and any other lab-specific rules especially under the current circumstances.