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 researchers with the caveat that you should be working remotely whenever possible. For those times that you 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) in addition to any Mines campus-wide requirements. Your safety and the safety of the other users of the lab is our number one priority. If you intend to access research facilities on campus, you must follow all these rules (and any existing lab-specific requirements).

1. Make sure that you are using your Blastercard when you go into a building, even if a door is already open. We need to know who has been in the labs for contact tracing if there are any cases of COVID-19. Do not let someone else use your Blastercard, or let anyone in who does not have one.

2. You must have permission of the person in charge of the lab you want to use – no exceptions. Use whatever scheduling method is appropriate for a given lab (for example, Google calendars or FOM).

3. If the lab that a buddy be in the lab or in a nearby lab, you are required to ensure that a buddy is present, and that buddy must also request and be approved for campus access.

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.

5. You must have proper PPE to use the lab depending on the laboratory rules.

6. Both in the lab if you not alone and outside the lab (in the hallways, restrooms, or anywhere on campus where you may 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. 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 spray or wipes. EHS has 70% IPA for researchers who need it.

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

11. These rules protect the entire community of Mines researchers and enable research progress for everyone. If you see someone violating these rules, you are expected to report what you saw. You can talk to your advisor, the lab manager, your department head, your Dean (or anyone in the Research and Tech Transfer Office if you do not feel comfortable with your other choices).

The consequences for violating these rules are as follows:

a. First offense – 1 week ban from all campus laboratories.

b. Second offense – 4 week ban from all campus laboratories

c. Third offense – Permanent ban from all campus laboratories