

April 2, 2020

Dear Principal Investigators and Laboratory Managers-

On behalf of Columbia University EH&S, we hope that this message finds you safe and well.

As we navigate these changing times together, we first want to thank you for the orderly and efficient ramp down of your research operations and further hope that you found the [ramp down checklist](#) to be a useful guide.

During this period of primarily remote work, please know that EH&S has a team of safety professionals working on-site, in rotations Monday – Friday during normal business hours at the Morningside, Manhattanville and CUIMC campuses. In addition, all EH&S staff continue to be available via email and phone to help support your laboratory regardless of whether your research operations are temporarily closed, in maintenance mode, or operational and continuing to perform essential research. EH&S's Biosafety Program continues active support of COVID-19 research, including discussion with researchers about proposed work, reviewing Rascal Appendix A submissions, and providing submissions to the Institutional Biological Safety Committee (IBC), which meets regularly to review and approve such research. Please note, when laboratory personnel are on-site, please adhere to social distancing requirements and other advisories to limit the spread of COVID-19 (<https://preparedness.columbia.edu/>).

EH&S's on-site teams will be performing a number of activities to support critical laboratory functions, including research building walkthroughs and ensuring laboratories continue to receive waste management services, albeit on a modified schedule to account for the reduction in research activities. EH&S will also be verifying emergency contact information posted on laboratory door signs, calibrating EH&S-supplied oxygen sensors where cryogenics are used/stored, and performing annual chemical fume hood certifications. Our remote work teams are continuing to update current safety programs and build new programs. These efforts will help ensure that your laboratory is prepared to resume research activities as soon as the University is ready to return to normal operations. If your laboratory is in need of any safety assistance or EH&S services throughout this period, please contact us at: labsafety@columbia.edu.

Chemical and radioactive waste pick-up requests should be submitted, as usual, via the online request forms at: <https://research.columbia.edu/hazardous-materials-and-sustainability>.

If you have any safety training inquiries, including Certificate of Fitness (C-14), please visit <https://research.columbia.edu/safety-trainings> or contact EH&S at: safetytraining@columbia.edu.

For access to past, current and future EH&S COVID-19 related tools and guidance, please visit: <https://research.columbia.edu/ehs-covid-19-guidance>.

Finally, please note that EH&S will continue to communicate with the research community about important initiatives, such as training updates, laboratory personnel roster maintenance and annual Laboratory Assessment Tool and Chemical Hygiene Plan (LATCH) reviews. We are here for you, and look forward to working with you, whether on-site or remote.

Please distribute this message and links widely to your entire research staff.

Stay safe,



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