

August 26, 2021

Subject: Important Safety Reminders for Returning Researchers – Please Read

Principal Investigators and Members of the Columbia University Research Community –

On behalf of EH&S, best wishes that this message finds you and yours to be in continued good health and wellness. As summer transitions into fall, and the return of laboratory personnel continues, EH&S is reaching out specifically to personnel who have not yet been back to campus, but who are returning to an open, operational laboratory. Previous communications addressed the more formal “ramp-up” process for investigators and researchers returning to their laboratories for the first time – please see these messages [here](#).

EH&S has developed [an abbreviated version of the ramp-up checklist](#) that newly returning researchers may find particularly useful. Principal Investigators and Laboratory Managers are kindly asked to forward this message to any laboratory personnel to whom this guidance applies.

The checklist covers the following items:

- **Training** – Before returning to campus, be sure all required training is up-to-date, including both laboratory safety-related courses, and the required COVID-19 training.
- **Emergency preparedness** – Upon arrival to your laboratory, take a moment to re-familiarize yourself with the locations of emergency equipment, including fire extinguishers, overhead showers and eyewashes, as applicable. Flush eyewashes to verify that they are working properly to provide clean water immediately upon activation.
- **Review chemical inventories** – If personal reagents have not been used for extended periods, verify that they are within expiration periods, particularly for any items that may become unstable over time, such as peroxide-forming compounds; these should be tested or discarded, as appropriate.
- **Address potential odor concerns** – Neglected cup sinks and drains should be flushed to block the escape of odorous gases; confirm that chemical fume hoods and biosafety cabinets are within their certification date range.
- **Confirm laboratory door signs are accurate and current** – Use the [EH&S door sign generator](#) to update, accordingly.
- **Laboratory and campus hygiene protocols** – Follow guidelines for cleaning of workstations and common surfaces to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these important safety and compliance matters.

Sincerely,
Team EH&S