



DEPARTMENT OF
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To: Researchers working on campus through severe research restrictions

From: Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability and Risk Office of Research Safety

Subject: Safety Information for Researchers Working On-Campus Through Severe Research Restrictions-4/16

Date: 4/16/2020

Please read and be aware of the following critical safety information and tools for researchers working on campus through the severe research restrictions and ensure laboratory procedures are updated accordingly. If you have questions please contact ESSR's Office of Research Safety at labsafety@umd.edu.

New Procedures for Minor Laboratory Incidents

At this time, the [University Health Center](#) has limited hours and staffing. This will affect response procedures for minor laboratory related incidents.

1. For all emergencies, continue to call UMPD at **301.405.3333** or **911**.
2. For minor, lab-related incidents (minor cuts, needle sticks, animal bites, etc.):
 - During 10am - 3pm M-F: call the Walk-in Clinic directly at **301.314.8157** BEFORE going to UHC. Doors are now kept locked, so you can no longer walk in without a phone call.
 - 9am – 10am and 3pm - 5pm M-F: Although the UHC building is not staffed before 10am and after 3pm, M-F, the registration desk will accept calls between 9-10am and between 3-5pm. During these hours, call the main UHC number **301.314.8180** for consultation and coordination of medical care, as necessary.
 - After 5pm and before 9am M-F or on Weekends: call the After-Hours Nurse Line **877.924.7758** for a consultation; UHC will coordinate with a local facility to obtain medical care, as necessary.
3. Report all work related injuries/illnesses directly to Rebecca Giannakos at giannakos@health.umd.edu.

Keeping Safe While Working Alone

Due to research restrictions and social distancing recommendations, researchers may be working alone in relatively empty buildings requiring use of additional safety controls.

1. The [UMD Rave Guardian App](#) is available for researchers working alone in laboratories. Using UMD Guardian, users can initiate a safety timer session; place a panic (emergency) call to UMPD; or text a tip to UMPD. The timer session feature allows the user to select a "guardian" from his or her contacts list (or select UMPD as their guardian). The personal guardian will be able to monitor the user's progress on campus. If the timer session ends without the user deactivating it, the guardian will be notified and can inform UMPD. Instructions to download and use this app is available at the [UMPD Webpage](#).
2. For higher risk operations or if stopping work to respond to a timer is not feasible, consider use of constant monitoring using tools like Zoom or WebEx.
3. For more information on how to evaluate risk of working alone, see the ESSR [Working Alone in the Lab](#) guidance.

COVID-19 Symptoms

While want you to stay healthy, it is important to know how to quickly respond if you become symptomatic in order to prevent the further spread to others on campus.

1. Familiarize yourself with the [symptoms for COVID-19](#) on the CDC website. Monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms every day prior to going to campus. Stay informed of Maryland and the University's information, current requirements, and resources at umd.edu/virusinfo and the ESSR website essr.umd.edu/covid-19.
2. If you become symptomatic while at home, stay home. If you start developing symptoms at work, return home immediately. Minimize the interaction with others and do not go back to your office. Notify your supervisor.
3. Contact the University Health Center at healthconcerns@umd.edu to report your status if you test positive, your case is a presumptive positive, or with questions related to COVID-19.