

University of Oregon

Protocols for Stage 1 and Stage 2 Research Activities

This process applies to work that must be completed on-campus, in the field, or involving face-to-face human subjects research. Research that can be conducted remotely, such as theoretical and computational work, or non-face-to-face human subjects research (surveys, mailings, etc.) can continue without submission of the Stage 1 and 2 Research Registration Form.

All researchers must implement the protocols described in the first section, “Research Team, Activities, and Safety Protocols.” There are 2 additional sections for fieldwork (not involving human subjects) and face-to-face human subjects research. Please review and implement as applicable to your research.

RESEARCH TEAM, ACTIVITIES, AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Research Team

- Research activities will primarily be conducted by fully trained research staff (e.g. graduate students, postdocs, staff scientists). Training activities for new research staff, or research staff learning new skills/techniques, will follow the following guidance:
 - Training of new personnel will only be done in a manner that does not create close contacts as defined by the CDC: > 15 minutes of cumulative time within 6ft of a COVID-positive individual over a 24-hour period (starting 48 hours prior to positive test or symptom onset). Face coverings do not preclude one from being considered a close contact.
 - Training of new personnel with limited experience will occur only during normal business hours (8am-5pm, M-F).
- All members of our research team will complete the weekly “Commitment to Public Health and Research Safety” Form

Research Activities

- Only research activities that require access to or use of university resources will be conducted.
- Activities that can be done successfully while maintaining a distance of at least 6ft, should continue to be done in that manner.
- Every effort will be made, when feasible for the research protocol, to minimize the creation of close contacts as defined by the CDC: > 15 minutes of cumulative time within 6ft of a COVID-positive individual over a 24-hour period (starting 48 hours prior to positive test or symptom onset). Face coverings do not preclude one from being considered a close contact.
- On-campus research protocols requiring work in close proximity for > 15 minutes between UO employees is permissible (lab meetings are not considered part of a research protocol and therefore comply with expectations for physical distancing; training activities are considered part of a research protocol).
- PPE that creates a physical barrier, including well-fitted surgical masks and gloves, as appropriate, is required for UO personnel during activities that require work in close proximity for > 15 minutes.
- Each research group will consider transparency and equity issues when determining who is accessing University resources (including building access), when, and why. Factors such as necessity of the task to the overall project, employee or staff preference, and preferred work hours should be taken into consideration. Research team members will work collaboratively to resolve issues around coordination and access where applicable.

Safety Protocols:

- Maintain at least 6ft of physical distance during research activities whenever possible.
- Follow all applicable OHA/OSHA, and/or UO policies on face-coverings/mask wearing, social distancing and other COVID-19 infection prevention guidance (whichever is most protective).
 - a. [OHA Mask Guidance](#)
 - b. [UO Mask Policy](#)
 - c. [UO COVID guidelines and resources for infection prevention](#)
- Implement best practices for infection control as recommended by the [CDC](#) and [OHA](#). As part of these precautions, all team members must practice good hand hygiene as it is one of the most effective means for reducing the spread of the virus. All members of the team must frequently wash their hands, including on arrival and departure if accessing campus, after removing gloves, and after touching communal surfaces with ungloved hands.

ON-CAMPUS RESEARCH (if applicable)

Physical Distancing and Density in Research Spaces

- Up to 100% of research personnel in a group are allowed to be on campus at a given time, space permitting. Work that can be done at home is still encouraged when possible.
- Research spaces must provide at least 36 ft² per person in lab and office spaces for simultaneous occupancy (i.e., for 2 people to share one space, it must be greater than 72 ft² and be of a layout to support appropriate physical distancing).
- The safety coordinator in each group will regularly monitor space and sign-up sheets to check compliance.
- Signage similar to that [provided by OVPRI](#) will be posted throughout all non-private offices in our research spaces to encourage distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene and disinfecting.
- Whenever possible, on-campus work will be conducted during normal business hours (8-5 Monday through Friday) when EHS and UOPD have the most active presence on campus. If work must be done outside of regular hours, the individuals performing this work will have a contact (either the PI or lab-buddy) to check-in both before and after engaging in the off-hour activity to ensure safety.
- Research activities involving the highest risk (i.e., chemicals, physical hazards) will occur only during normal business hours.

Disinfecting Research Spaces

- High-touch points (multiple users, frequently touched) inside lab spaces will be sanitized/disinfected daily.
- The lab safety coordinator will procure and maintain all necessary PPE and disinfectants for our group to execute our research activities. Lab staff will be responsible for their own face coverings.
- All personnel will be required to use a sign-up sheet to reserve shared equipment. This sign-up sheet will be monitored by the safety coordinator. Shared equipment will be sanitized following CDC guidelines
- All personnel will follow all University and unit guidance for using any necessary on-campus services, including research core facilities, and will consult with unit leaders before engaging in those activities.

FIELDWORK (if applicable)

- We recognize that some individuals may be fully vaccinated, but we do not yet have information about the percentage of fully vaccinated employees who seek to engage in fieldwork. Similarly, there is limited workplace guidance on best practices in regard to vaccinated individuals, particularly in the context in which individuals having protected exemptions from vaccinations may be working with individuals who are partially or fully vaccinated. As such, and in compliance with current Oregon workplace infection control requirements, researchers engaging in field work will continue to conduct activities in a manner consistent with existing guidelines for minimizing spread of CoVid-19.
- All personnel follow [UO travel rules and guidance](#) and seek any required pre-approved.
- All personnel will follow best practice guidance and any recommendations from Travel IMT to maximize physical distancing in transit, lodging, and at the field site in compliance with current recommendations ([CDC](#)).
- Regular CoVid-19 testing (e.g. [UO MAP](#)) in line with [CDC guidance pre- and post-travel](#) is encouraged.
- All personnel will follow guidance from any remote/fieldwork site affiliated entity (e.g., other school, institute, or location) to the extent such guidance is not inconsistent with guidance issued by the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, or UO policies.
- The PI and safety coordinator will monitor compliance amongst the research team through both expectation setting meetings up-front as well as checking in during and after trips to make sure individuals continue to maintain vigilance.
- All personnel will follow all federal, state and local guidelines for self-isolation/quarantine before and after trips and will ensure that masks are worn whenever traveling.
- Everyone will be encouraged to reduce potential close contacts prior to and after trips. To the extent feasible, travelers will work remotely from campus for at least 7 days after return to Oregon.

FACE-TO-FACE HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH (if applicable)

- Researchers will maintain at least 6ft of physical distance whenever possible and minimize contact with research participants through the use of PPE and/or physical barriers as needed.
- Activities that can be successfully completed without being within 6ft for more than 15 minutes in a 24hr period will continue to be done in that manner.
- All personnel will use enhanced PPE (and/or a physical barrier) when interacting with human participants, including face shields, if they need to be within 6ft and gloves if direct contact may occur.
- Researchers may enroll individuals with increased CoVid-19 risk (e.g. elderly and/or obese) provided they self-report being fully vaccinated or the IRB-approved protocol provides for additional protection that minimizes risk for non-vaccinated individuals,
- Home and School visits are permissible provided the activities align with current OHA guidance for mask compliance, large social gatherings, etc. (but research groups are encouraged to use multiple independent teams – i.e. research personnel cohorts)
- All personnel will use online/electronic scheduling and tracking systems for research visits that minimize overlap before and after different participants within our group.

- All personnel will coordinate with PIs in nearby spaces to minimize interaction between participants across research groups. Use of shared waiting rooms or having individuals wait in the same space will be minimized.
- Research personnel will inform participants about the rules/guidance/activities allowed before their research visit. Participants coming to campus will be required to wear face coverings and research personnel will have extra disposable face coverings if needed. Participants will also be reminded that campus is closed to the public, and that their invitation to access campus is strictly limited to the designated research function and location.
- Researchers will prepare to ramp down these activities on short notice.
- Research personnel should immediately discontinue human subjects research activities if participants and/or environment does not align with current OHA guidance (i.e. mask compliance, large social gatherings, etc.)
- All personnel will read and follow the HSR guidance provided [here](#) regarding responsibilities, contact tracing, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and necessary documentation for the IRB.

If you have questions about permissible activities, resources, or expectations, please contact ResearchIMT@uoregon.edu.