Spring 2021 Lab Occupancy and Travel Operations Update

Effectively 3/24/21, Campus increased allowable research lab occupancy to 1/133 sq. ft. and the College of Engineering will follow this recommendation. This will allow many of our labs to operate at or near pre-pandemic occupancies. Each PI or Laboratory Manager may make their own decision about whether to increase to this occupancy limit in their labs and workspaces.

Effective April 12, it will no longer be necessary to submit updates to COVID operations lab plans when adding new researchers. Research groups and Lab Managers will be responsible for maintaining occupancy limits, keeping adequate distances, and ensuring masks continue to be worn at all times when others are present in the lab. Send questions about acceptable occupancies and COVID safety precautions to Jesse Decker or Tom Kohn. COE Safety will continue to distribute COVID-related PPE and disinfectants. Place these orders using the CoE Smart Restart Ordering Form.

Grad student offices are available only as necessary. Six-foot distancing and masks are required in grad student offices at all times and eating while others are present is prohibited.

Send requests for undergraduate WISCard access for research purposes outside normal business hours to CAE. Send requests for non-student/employee access or for events in Engineering Buildings to Jesse for initial review. Tours for interested or accepted students are not allowed on campus currently.

Travel restrictions related to COVID-19 have loosened

Please see the March 24th, 2021 travel restriction announcement from Campus Communications. Day trips by automobile no longer require approval or a travel exemption. Employees looking to travel for non-research related purposes will need to complete the Essential Travel Exemption Form and send it for review by the COE Associate Dean/Chief Financial Officer.

Individuals seeking to complete, or have students complete overnight research related travel, need to complete the COE COVID Travel Form. Send the completed form to your Department Chair, Associate Dean for Research and Director for Safety for review along with the Essential Travel Exemption Form.

- Overnight trips (in-state or out-of-state) require approval and a travel exemption.
- All trips by airline require approval and a travel exemption.
- Follow safe travel practices during all trips.

Continue COVID precautions on campus and off

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others who do not live with you.
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Stay safe Badgers,