Summer 2021 Lab Occupancy and Travel Operations Update

Effectively 5/10/21, Campus increased allowable research lab occupancy to 6-foot distancing 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 is 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 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.

**Travel restrictions related to COVID-19.**

Please see the May 24th, 2021 [travel restriction announcement](#) from Campus Communications.

Effective May 26th, Domestic travel does not need additional approvals related to COVID. Safe practices for domestic travel as recommended by Campus and CDC should be followed.

Individuals seeking to complete, or have students complete international 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](#).

**Continue COVID precautions on and off campus**

- Get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to help protect yourself and others if you are not vaccinated.
- Stay 6 feet apart from others who do not live with 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,

Jesse Decker | Director for Safety
Oliver Schmitz | Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs