CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF LABORATORIES ON CAMPUS

The following are guidelines for how to maintain cleanliness in laboratories. These guidelines should be followed daily while areas on campus are being occupied. The information outlined in this document is intended for use by all individuals on campus. This is merely a reminder of the responsibility researchers already have for disinfecting work spaces and equipment before and after use.

Please note: Custodial staff will still be performing routine and scheduled cleaning of all campus areas.

Required Materials

- Disposable gloves
- Safety glasses or goggles.
- Disinfectant with efficacy against COVID-19 (see EPA approved list). Please note that you must use a disinfectant appropriate for the research materials you are handling. The OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens standard requires an EPA-listed tuberculocidal disinfectant when working with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM).
- Product to perform hand hygiene (soap and water or hand sanitizer containing at least 70% alcohol).

Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces

Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (i.e. tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, etc.) in the lab should occur at least twice a shift. Shared equipment such as centrifuges must be disinfected as per standard research protocols.

- Disposable gloves should be worn when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves must be removed aseptically and discarded after each use.
- Safety glasses or goggles must be worn when using disinfectants in liquid forms (excluding disinfectant wipes).
- Heavily soiled surfaces should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, or EPA-registered disinfectant for COVID-19 should be used.
  - All chemicals, including diluted disinfectant solutions, must be in appropriate containers which are labeled with the name of the chemical and date prepared/date expired as required.
  - Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Please note that diluted bleach solutions expire after 7 days.
    - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
      - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
      - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
  - Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
Safe Behavioral Practices

As more areas on campus and the community continue to gradually open, it is important we continue these practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Maintain social distancing of at least six feet away from others. This is very important when working in shared spaces.
- Mask or other face coverings should be worn while in public, this includes shared spaces on campus.
- Performing frequent hand hygiene by using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- If you are feeling ill, make sure you stay home until you are feeling better. This is for everyone’s protection.

If you have any questions, please contact EHS at ehs@yale.edu or 203-785-3550.