

Guidance for Sanitization of Research Laboratories

As essential research operations continue and more research activity is phased in, it is important to continue to minimize the potential for transmission of COVID-19. Part of this practice is regular sanitization of research laboratories. Sanitization of laboratory surfaces should be conducted on a regular schedule several times each workday. Sanitization should be conducted using a disinfecting solution / wipe approved by the [CDC](#) or [EPA](#). A 70% solution (v/v) of ethanol or isopropanol and water can also be prepared in most labs and used with paper towels. Some common surfaces for disinfecting include:

- Doorknobs and cabinet / drawer handles
- Benchtops and desks
- Chair backs and armrests
- Light switches
- Keyboards
- Other commonly touched surfaces

In laboratories, many surfaces are frequently touched that may not be thought of when sanitizing surfaces. Some examples include:

- Fume hood / BSC sashes
- Refrigerator / freezer handles and doors
- Analytical instrument control surfaces and accessories
- Microscopes, incubators, centrifuges
- Frequently shared items such as pipettors, multimeters, tools, etc.
- Whiteboard pens and markers
- Scales / balance control panels
- Frequently handled optics, mirrors, detectors, etc.
- Glassware and other labware
- Flow control knobs, faucets, regulators, etc.
- Glove box gloves
- Other commonly touched objects / surfaces as determined by the group

A plan for regular lab sanitization should be designed and implemented at the lab level and responsibilities should be delegated as needed. In all cases:

- ***Any personnel who are ill (or have an ill household member) should not report to work.*** Supervisors should be notified immediately.
- Continue to observe proper [social distancing and hygiene](#).