Research Continuity Working Group Recommendations

Research spaces
Researchers should follow return to work plans that were outlined in summer 2020, which included scheduling time in research spaces to maintain physical distancing. (Please note that important updates to human-subjects research were issued after the summer guidance memo and are available in the COVID-19 & RESEARCH FAQ.)

- Research service facilities: continue to drop samples off for analysis; animal facilities continue to operate as in the summer.
- Shared equipment spaces: use the scheduling tool to maintain density similar to that in individual group lab spaces, maintaining a 6 ft distance. Clean/disinfect spaces and equipment before and after use. Post guidelines and safety expectations.

Provide signs for use outside shared equipment rooms showing it is “in use” or “occupied” to limit the number of people going in. This will complement and supplement other uniform signage that will be provided across campus regarding face coverings’ usage etc.

Buildings with teaching and research spaces
Consider reducing faculty, staff (up to 50% if possible) in buildings with large classrooms on days with heavy classroom use.

Faculty and staff should try to avoid classroom areas when classes are dismissed.

The Research Continuity working group supports the “Different Entry and Exit points for buildings and stairwells” proposed in the ISU Building Common Area Standards. The group recommends piloting this in a couple of buildings in the summer in some high-volume areas.

Face coverings required in corridors and common spaces when social distance is not possible.

- Common spaces such as conference rooms: maintain 6 ft distance. Maintain 50% occupancy – remove extra chairs or mark them with stickers, similar to what is done in classrooms;
- Break rooms: use 50% capacity limit. face coverings usage. Limit time in break rooms.

Graduate student office spaces
- Consider Plexiglass partitions between adjacent desks/cubicles for graduate students in large office spaces with multiple graduate students.
- Consider more even distribution of graduate students in different floors if shared graduate student offices on some floors are more crowded compared to others.
- Consider using small classrooms that are of less value at 50% capacity as graduate student office space.

Updated: July 21, 2020