**COVID-19 Prevention: AERB 214, 216**

**Social Distancing and Cleaning Guidelines**

Prepared by: D. Dabiri May 15, 2020

In alignment with EH&S recommendations, research activities in AERB 214, 216 are implementing the following social distancing and cleaning procedures in order to decrease community spread of COVID-19. **These protocols supersede any other directions found in existing operations and maintenance guides and procedures**. They are based on the *Lower Risk Level* job role category for laboratory staff, which primarily requires social distancing. To assess your risk level and selection of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) see <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/COVID-19-risk-ppe-selection.pdf>. If any existing operating or maintenance procedures cannot be performed as written while adhering to these guidelines, the procedures must be amended before work is allowed to continue.

**Symptom Monitoring**

The Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) [Directive 1.70](https://lni.wa.gov/dA/36e85758be/DD170.pdf) requires that employers have a program to prevent sick employees from entering the workplace and when recognized, that ill employees are sent home. This guidance applies to faculty and other academic personnel, staff, students, contractors, visitors, volunteers and other personnel who present in-person at any University work site. UW Medicine personnel should follow established protocols for medical center employees.

University departments have the following responsibilities:

1. Communicate that personnel and visitors must stay home if they are sick or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, even if symptoms are mild. This includes cough, fever, shortness of breath, and other respiratory symptoms. Communicate that personnel who develop symptoms while at work, must leave the workplace.

2. Ensure ill employees do not come to work on campus. Supervisors may not allow ill employees to come to work or remain in the workplace.

3. Display posters with this message in your workplace and at building entrances. University [Stay Healthy, Huskies](https://www.washington.edu/brand/healthy-huskies/) messaging and graphics are online. Combine this with other communication channels commonly used in your department or unit.

In addition, the DOSH Directive 1.70 recommends health surveillance to identify early signs of infection, and separate workers who may present a risk to others prior to entering the workplace. Public health agencies also recommend that employers implement COVID-19 [symptom screening](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Employervisitorscreeningguidance.pdf), which can include symptom self-attestation. Symptom self-attestation involves an individual reviewing a list of symptoms and declaring the presence or absence of those symptoms. Units that implement of other types of health surveillance methods should contact the EH&S Employee Health Center at emphlth@uw.edu.

The University has developed an enterprise-wide tool through [Workday](https://isc.uw.edu/) that is required for UW units to conduct daily symptom self-attestation for [all staff and student employees](https://hr.uw.edu/coronavirus/return-to-on-site-work/covid-19-employee-symptom-attestation/), and [academic personnel](https://hr.uw.edu/coronavirus/return-to-on-site-work/covid-19-employee-symptom-attestation/) working on site at a UW work location. UW units with existing symptom monitoring procedures will be expected to transition to the Workday symptom attestation tool. [Contractors and vendors](https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/notice-personnel-vendors-contractors.pdf) are subject to symptom attestation requirements when working at a UW work location.

It is important for personnel to study <https://ehs-web01.s.uw.edu/system/files/resources/guidance-symptom-monitoring-COVID-19.pdf> carefully properly assessing and implementing symptom screening.

**Criteria for Entry**

This section is based on current university, state, and national guidelines in place on the date written and will be amended as guidelines evolve and change. *Criteria for Entry listed here are currently being reviewed by EH&S for consistency with theirs. AERB 214/216 policy will conform with EH&S guidelines*.

Every time you enter the building, please wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your face. Wash your hands before and after using any shared tools or equipment. Facemasks are only required if appropriate social distancing cannot be maintained. Determination of appropriate facemasks is important, and details of facemasks can be found here <https://ehs-web01.s.uw.edu/system/files/resources/facemask-guidance-COVID-19.pdf>.

**As of March 25, 2020 AERB is currently closed. No one without an essential need shall enter the building**. The following guidelines will be implemented and amended where necessary when AERB re-opens with social distancing practices in effect.

If your answer to any of the following questions is yes, you may not enter the building:

COVID-19 information for visitors, contractors and vendors visiting can be found here: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/notice-personnel-vendors-contractors.pdf>

**Social Distancing**

Social distance of at least 6 feet shall be maintained while in AERB. If any task cannot be done without maintaining social distancing, then facemasks are required. Determination of appropriate facemasks is important, and details of facemasks can be found here <https://ehs-web01.s.uw.edu/system/files/resources/facemask-guidance-COVID-19.pdf>.

**General Occupancy Guidelines**

The following are general guidelines for the personnel capacity of various AERB laboratories at any given time for general lab safety and social distancing. Whenever possible, research projects should rotate lab usage so that total occupancy is always kept below capacity.

 AERB 214, Water Tunnel Lab (PI: Dabiri)

o Lab - Up to 2 personnel

 AERB 216, High Enthalpy Flow Laboratory (PI: Dabiri)

o Lab - Up to 2 personnel

**Sanitization and Disinfection**

These guidelines assume that no known case of COVID-19 has been in the area being cleaned. If a COVID-19 positive person has been in the area, EH&S will implement a scope of cleaning and communicate further guidelines, as appropriate. Guidelines laid out by EH&S in <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/cleaning-disinfection-protocols-covid-19.pdf> should be followed while cleaning and disinfecting. Hard, non-porous surfaces and electronics should be cleaned with wipes or a spray containing at least 70% alcohol from the list of approved cleaning products listed in <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>.

**Guidance for Returning to In-Person Research**

Guidance for Returning to In-Person Research can be found here: <https://www.washington.edu/research/or/guidance-for-returning-to-in-person-research/>. Please study and implement what is discussed on this website.

**Hand Hygiene**

Everyone should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently, but especially upon entering the building and after cleaning surfaces in the building. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be used.

**Daily Cleaning**

At the end of each day, closing staff are responsible for disinfecting the following items:

 All doorknobs

 All light switches

 Shared desks

**Per-Use Cleaning**

Sharing tools and equipment are common in AERB. In order to maintain proper hygiene and sanitary conditions, shared tools and equipment should be disinfected after each use or period of contact. **Tools should not be passed between workers without being cleaned first**. This is going to take some effort, as it is very common to share tools and hand items back and forth while working together. Keep the tools and items you are using for a given task close to you. Avoid sharing them, or wipe them off between uses. Clean them before you return them to their places when you are finished. Think of this as similar to the common practice of cleaning equipment after personal use at a gym/health club. Items that should be cleaned per use or after contact include (but are not limited to):

 Keyboards, monitors, mice, desks at shared workstations

 Hand tools, Machine tools, Handheld meters, Instrumentation

 Hoist controls, Pallet jacks

 Shared PPE (safety glasses, hard hats, harnesses, etc.)

**Summary**

A summary and more general discussion of the above can be found here: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/system/files/resources/university-requirements-COVID-19-prevention-workplace.pdf>. Please note that a convenient checklist exists at the end of this document. It is highly recommended that personnel print this and use it often to ensure they are following protocol.