

# Laboratory and Research Ramp-Up Checklist

## COVID-19 Precautions

[Face coverings](#) are required to be worn while in the building. Practice hand hygiene (wash hands/sanitize hands) before and after removing the face mask. Refer to lab specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for task specific face covering requirements.

Routinely practice hand hygiene throughout the day — especially after doffing gloves.

### When entering lab:

1. Enter the lab
2. Practice hand hygiene
3. Put on PPE

### When exiting lab:

1. Remove PPE
2. Practice hand hygiene
3. Exit lab

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## Seek Emergency Medical Care Immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Your Chair, Dean or Director will determine when you can resume research.

Once approved to resume laboratory operations, assess the condition of your laboratory, equipment and supplies.

## Prior to Resuming Lab Work

### Walk through all of your areas and complete a visual inspection looking for evidence of:

- broken chemical containers
- old waste
- leaks
- equipment failures
- spills - Refer to [SafetyNet 13: Guidelines for Chemical Spill Control](#) to mitigate spills

### Open chemical storage cabinets and refrigerators

be mindful that vapors may have accumulated and containers may have shifted.

### Check equipment:

- Carefully inspect and test all equipment before use.
  - Some equipment could be affected if there was a power disruption.
  - Plug-in and power-up lab equipment one at-a-time so that electrical circuits do not get overloaded.
  - Plug-in lab equipment that run on internal batteries to recharge them.
- Ensure [fume hoods](#) are working and have been tested within the last year. Contact Facilities Management 530-752-1655 for servicing.
- Run an autoclave cycle with a biological indicator to ensure it's operating properly.
- Check gaskets on centrifuges or cups and grease if necessary, replace if cracked.
- Check that all [emergency eyewashes and showers](#) have been tested in the past month.

### Check inventories:

- Make sure hand soap and paper towels are available.
- Order lab supplies and PPE needed for planned experiments, prepare (e.g., sterilize) as needed. Please note: orders for critical supplies may be delayed. Information from the Procurement & Contracting Services can be found [here](#).

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## Additional Considerations and Resources

Ensure [Working Alone SOP](#) is complete and reflects current working conditions and restrictions

### Chemicals

- Review SOPs before starting work
- Refill liquid nitrogen in Dewars or applicable ultra-low freezer.

### Radiation

- Review your Radiation Use Authorization via [UC Radiation](#) and everything is in order including; Radioactive Material Inventory, Authorized Personnel and Authorized User training status.

### Biosafety

- Check that all biosafety cabinets have been certified within the last year.
  - Contact TSS at 510-845-5591 for recertification.
- Remake disinfectants (e.g. 10% bleach).
- Review BUA and lab-specific SOPs.

### Inspect:

- Chemicals and biological materials for signs of degradation and contamination
- Request [waste pickup](#) for
  - Expired [peroxide forming compounds](#)
  - Chemicals and chemical containers that are degraded, cracked or bulging
  - Waste containers stored past their pick-up date.
- Large nitrogen Dewars - all safety valves and vent valves must be unobstructed and functioning properly.
- Run water down the sinks and drains to make sure that the sink traps are not dry.

## Decontamination

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects, surfaces, and benches, using 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl or another [EPA-listed disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#).
- Take care of or dispose of old cultures, flasks, or plates that may have been left in incubators or lab fridges.
- Discard all biohazard bags that had waste left in them.
- Clean aspiration flasks.
- Surface decontaminate work benches, biosafety cabinets, lab fridges, incubators, etc.
- Autoclave biological waste, or put them in medical waste containers for treatment by Stericycle.
- Request [waste pickup](#) for expired [peroxide forming compounds](#) or other degraded chemicals

## UC Davis Office of Research Guidance

[Research Continuity & Planning for COVID-19](#)

[Guidelines for UC Davis Research Ramp-Up/Ramp-Down](#)

[Steps to Avoid/Reduce Coronavirus Transmission in Labs](#)

