

From: LCOM Office of the Dean <COMOfficeOfTheDean@med.uvm.edu>

Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 9:02 AM

To: Vicki Gilwee

Subject: URGENT - Lab Reopening Update

Dear Colleagues:

We begin our cautious phased lab reopening Monday, May 18, 2020. Your attention to our guidance is greatly appreciated. Please understand that this is a work in progress and support services are also navigating the reopening process, thus requiring time to ramp up to increased capacity. Careful monitoring, continued communication, and patience will be necessary.

To continue work in an LCOM laboratory as of Monday, May 18, 2020 the following are required:

- All personnel in the lab must have completed the VOSHA safety training and the completion certificate must be forwarded to their supervisor.
- All personnel in the lab must have been granted essential research status by the Dean's Office.
- The lab director must have completed and submitted a lab reopening safety plan that has been reviewed and approved by their department head/chair and the Senior Associate Dean for Research.

As a reminder the timeline for our phased reopening of labs:

- Starting May 18, 2020 – Only approved essential research faculty, staff, and graduate and postdoctoral trainees, as well as physicians with offices in MEDPLEX, and medical education essential personnel.
- Starting June 1, 2020 - Additional nonessential research personnel including faculty, staff, and medical student, graduate and postdoctoral research trainees.
- Starting June 15, 2020 - Consideration of other nonessential personnel including administrative staff and additional student researchers. Undergraduate researchers will be considered at this time, but will require express individual approval from the Senior Associate Dean for Research.
- Further details on this reopening process with regard to the June 1 and June 15 phases will be provided in the coming weeks.

Risk Management has recently provided some additional helpful references.

<https://www.uvm.edu/riskmanagement/covid-19-laboratory-information>

Note: that we have used our own LCOM lab reopening plan template that was disseminated earlier so that investigators could be ready by the May 18, 2020 deadline.

Rationale for phase 1:

Our cautious phased lab reopening has been carefully considered. This is not a simple resumption of previous activities, and our logic for continuing the essential status requirement for phase one (May 18 – May 31) is as follows:

- Ongoing compliance issues with prescribed safety measures.
- New comprehensive reopening instructions.
- New required training for all personnel.
- We have added and continue to add essential personnel. These folks all must meet the required essential research criteria that we disseminated previously.
- Each lab has been developing and submitting required reopening plans. These must be reviewed and approved. They need to be shared with lab team members.
- Support services also require a phased ramp up.
- This is a huge and evolving undertaking. It is safer to approach in phased increments that add additional folks at planned intervals. That way we can pull back if there are significant problems.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

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Dean

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