LABORATORIES N. A. A. C. C. L. C. L

MA Safety Standards



MANDATORY SAFETY STANDARDS



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Ensure separation of 6 feet or more between individuals at fixed working positions unless this distance is unsafe due to nature of the work or the configuration of the workspace

- Close or reconfigure worker common and high density areas where workers are likely to congregate (e.g., break rooms, eating areas) to allow social distancing; redesign work stations to ensure physical distancing (e.g., separate tables, use distance markers to assure spacing)
- Cafeterias must practice physical distancing and appropriate hygiene measures and may reopen for take-out food only; self-serve, unattended buffets, topping bars, drink stations and other communal serving areas must remain closed
- Use physical partitions to separate workstations that cannot be spaced out, where feasible. Physical partitions must be at least 6 feet in height

Designate assigned working areas (e.g., floor, building, factory zone) to individuals where possible to limit movement throughout the facility and limit contact between workers

Stagger work schedules, lunch and break times, regulating max number of people in one place and ensuring 6 feet of physical distance

Workers must use face coverings or face masks except where doing so may introduce a safety hazard to workers or where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability

Minimize the use of confined spaces (e.g., elevators, control rooms, vehicles) by more than one individual at a time; all workers in such space at the same time are required to wear face coverings

Recommended best practices

Improve ventilation for enclosed spaces where possible (e.g., open doors and windows)



Ensure access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, and allow sufficient break time for workers to wash hands frequently; alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol may be used as an alternative

Supply workers with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes)

 $Require frequent \ cleaning \ and \ sanitation \ of \ all \ high-touch \ areas \ such \ as \ desks, door \ handles, \ and \ restrooms$

Avoid sharing use of laboratory materials / equipment (e.g., goggles) or disinfect equipment between use

Post visible signage throughout the site to remind workers of the hygiene and safety protocols



Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission

Adjust workplace hours and shifts (if working in-person, leverage working teams with different schedules or staggered arrival / departure) to minimize contact across workers and reduce congestion at entry points

Limit visitors and service providers on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas, outside the facility if possible

Restrict access of office workers to lab or production facilities; segment office / support personnel to specific areas of the facility

Workers must stay home if feeling ill

If the employer is notified of a positive case at the workplace, the employer shall notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the workplace is located and assist the LBOH as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine. Testing of other workers may be recommended consistent with guidance and / or at the request of the LBOH

Post notice to workers and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in the Commonwealth's Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplace

Recommended best practices

Workers must continue to telework if feasible (e.g., office work, data analysis, notebook recording); meetings should be remote to reduce density in the laboratory

Workers who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home

Encourage workers to self-identify symptoms or any close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case to the employer

Encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19 to disclose to the employer for purposes of cleaning / disinfecting and contact tracing



Conduct daily cleaning and disinfection of site (at least daily, and more frequently if feasible)

Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning

Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, elevators, bathrooms)

In event of a positive case, shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance

Clean shared spaces (e.g., conference rooms) between use and supply cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes)