

Guidance for Social Distancing and Reduced Occupancy of Laboratories:

As laboratories engage in development of COVID-19 mitigation plans, the following points should be considered:

- A primary consideration for developing COVID-19 Mitigation Plans and considering staggered shifts, work rotations, and scheduling for common equipment and shared spaces is maintenance of 6' distance between all workers to ensure appropriate social distancing.
- Current guidance for the incremental return of additional research suggests planning for a restriction on gatherings of no more than 10 persons while maintaining six foot between individuals.
- For large open laboratories, EH&S recommends that total occupancy not exceed 1 person for every ~150 ft² of laboratory space.
 - In many lab spaces one research bay equates to ~150 ft²
 - Culture rooms, chemical fume hood annexes, and common equipment rooms are typically small (~100-200 ft²) and configurations of equipment within those spaces will likely restrict occupancy to a single individual at a time.
- Assignment and/or occupancy of bench and desk spaces may need to be altered to maintain 6 foot social distancing requirements.

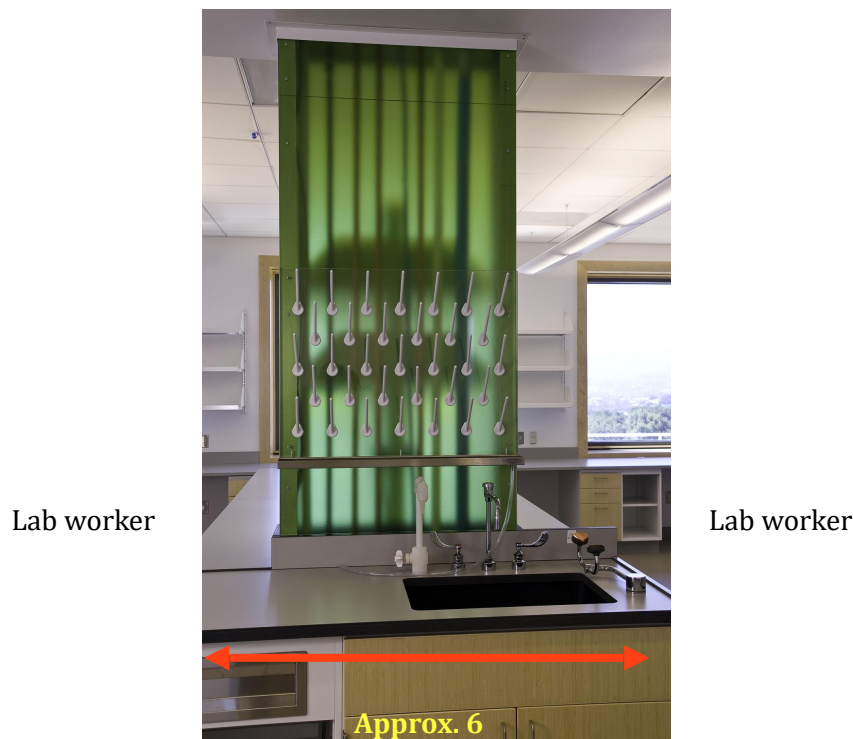


Figure A: In many laboratories, benches similar to those above that include utility chases in between case work, are approximately 6 feet apart. If necessary, lab workers could safely work across from each other in a staggered manner. Face to face workstations are not encouraged by PA Department of Health guidance. Other options include partial barriers that do not exceed the height of the case work.



Figure B: Bench in foreground has desirable feature of lab staff facing same direction with no one face-to-face. Remaining bays may need to implement staggered work stations. In some laboratory configurations assigning personnel to work spaces that alternate or are on opposite ends of a single bay may be appropriate.



Figure C: Two occupants of adjacent benches and/or desk workspaces in a single bay is likely not to meet social distancing requirements and must be accounted for in a COVID-19 Mitigation Plan.