

## Guidelines for laboratory and animal research during the COVID-19 pandemic (*Revised 06/24/2021*)

The Rush campus is a healthcare setting, and the most recent guidance should be followed ([CDC Guidance](#)).

The Chicago Department of Public Health updated the emergency travel order (effective June 15, 2021; [CDPH Emergency Travel Order](#)).

The city of Chicago is currently in Phase 5 ([City of Chicago](#)). The CDPH guidelines previously included an Emergency Travel Order that reflected the changing nature of the pandemic and provided specific guidance to travelers entering or returning to Chicago. Under that system, states were placed in three categories – red, orange and yellow – based on the status of the outbreak in the states and how the data compares to the situation in Chicago. The guidance is:

- **Yellow:** States with a rolling 7-day average less than 15 cases/day/100k residents.
  - No quarantine or pre-arrival test required. Maintain strict masking, social distancing and avoidance of in-person gatherings
- **Orange:** States have a rolling 7-day average **between** 15 cases/day/100k residents and the Chicago rolling 7-day average (currently 60)
  - 14-day quarantine OR **pre-arrival negative test** no more than 72 hours before arrival in Chicago with strict masking, social distancing and avoidance of in-person gatherings
- **Red:** States have a higher 7-day rolling average of positive cases/day/100k Chicago residents.
  - 14-day quarantine

Based on data available on **June 15, 2021**:

- All US states and territories are in **yellow status (no requirements)**

### General principles

1. As education and research are cornerstones of Rush University's vital mission it is important that laboratory research, including animal research, continue at Rush in a manner consistent with the health and well-being of faculty, staff, trainees, and the public.
2. Research at Rush will be aligned and consistent with health and safety guidelines that have been recommended by the IDPH, Rush ID, and Rush Leadership.

### **Laboratory activities.**

Face masks: Face masks must be worn by all staff working on campus when in the presence of others and in public settings where other physical/social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., common work spaces, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Appropriate use of face masks is critical to minimizing risks to others.

Disposable masks will be provided by Rush at the entries to research buildings. Disposable masks may only be worn for one day and then must be placed in the trash.

Comparative Research Center (CRC) Animal Facility:

- Proper PPE in the CRC includes a Rush issued face mask, gloves and covering or replacing of street clothes with a lab coat, yellow isolation gown or scrub uniform
- No more than two individuals may occupy and work in an animal holding room – this includes animal care technicians performing husbandry procedures.
- No more than 2 individuals may occupy and work in any procedure room in the CRC including the necropsy room, 047 Cohn
- No more than 3 people may occupy and work in a CRC surgery suite which includes at least one CRC certified veterinary technician monitoring anesthesia
- Teaching and training surgical labs requiring more than 3 individuals in a CRC surgery suite should remain suspended. Exceptions may be submitted to the Vice Provost for Research for consideration by the COVID-19 Laboratory Research Committee

Meetings: In person meetings should be limited to the restrictions of local, state and federal orders and assume that individuals are vaccinated and/or are wearing masks. Collegial communication by email, instant message, telephone or other available technology should be encouraged, rather than face-to-face meetings.

Remote Work: Those who can work remotely to fulfill some or all of their work responsibilities may continue to do so to reduce the number of individuals on campus and the potential spread of SARS-CoV-2. These arrangements, which should be approved by the immediate supervisor, can be done on a full or partial day/week schedule as appropriate.

#### Faculty, staff, and trainee involvement in research.

Clinical and laboratory research are cornerstones of Rush University's vital mission. The guidelines for the research environment during circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic are rooted in safety for the health and well-being of faculty, staff, trainees, and the public

Faculty, staff, or trainees who have needs (health or otherwise) that would preclude them from participating in research at this time should seek accommodations according to the university guidelines for accommodations due to COVID-19 related issues. Personnel who have tested positive for COVID-19 should follow the Rush System for Health or University guidelines for personnel who test positive for COVID-19.

Personnel who test positive for COVID-19 or are having symptoms associated with COVID-19 infection must follow Rush's policy - [Rush COVID19 testing](#)

#### Guidelines for faculty, staff, and trainees who have been infected with COVID-19

The following guidelines are in place to assure that faculty, staff, and trainees who perform research on campus, and who test positive for COVID-19, take the required precautions to assure they are taking care of themselves as well as protecting others around them. Faculty, staff, and trainees should adhere to the following guidelines if they have tested positive for COVID-19:

1. Faculty, staff, and trainees who test positive for COVID-19 must report this outcome to their supervisor and Rush Employee Corporate Health Services immediately.

2. Faculty, staff, and trainees who have tested positive for COVID-19 should comply with their treatment and inform their supervisor one day after they have been cleared to return to campus or research site. Faculty, staff, and trainees who are on campus should follow the guidelines for contact tracing according to Rush System for Health.