

Salisbury University COVID-19 Research Guidelines

Based on what is known today about COVID-19, most college students are not representative of a high-risk population for the virus. Current data suggest that those most at risk are the elderly and those with compromised immune systems or underlying chronic medical illness. The following guidelines apply to all SU students and faculty regarding lab research on campus during the pandemic:

- Student research in a laboratory setting may continue on a case-by-case basis with approval from the Dean. Laboratory settings are considered any enclosed space where research is being conducted including wet labs, computer labs, greenhouses.
- Students should not engage in laboratory research if they have been asked to self-quarantine by public health authorities or SU
- To receive permission to be on-campus and conducting research, students must:
 - Communicate with their faculty research mentor before entering the lab to check if postponement is warranted.
 - Immediately communicate to their faculty research mentor and their department chair any safety concerns and stop participating in the experience until the issue is resolved.
 - Inform their faculty research mentor if they have a health condition that puts them at high risk or have other relevant circumstances (e.g., caregiver for an immunosuppressed family member).
 - Follow the cleaning and disinfecting protocol recommended by the Centers for Disease Control for Community Facilities (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>) at the beginning and end of each time period in the lab.
 - Maintain a distance of 6' between people while working the lab
- To receive permission to be mentoring students conducting on-campus research, faculty must:
 - Immediately communicate to their department chair any safety concerns and stop participating in the experience until the issue is resolved.
 - Inform their research students if they have a health condition that puts them at high risk or have other relevant circumstances (e.g., caregiver for an immunosuppressed family member).
 - Ensure the students follow the cleaning and disinfectant protocol (see above) at the beginning and end of each time period in the lab. Faculty should ensure that a bleach solution (see CDC guidance) in a spray bottle should be available in each research lab.
 - Ensure that students maintain a distance of 6' between people while working the lab. This may mean limiting the number of people in the lab at any given time.
- SU retains the right to postpone/cancel student participation in research at any time to protect the safety of students and staff.
- SU will be compliant with all Federal, State, Local and USM mandatory guidance.
- This policy is subject to change if new information becomes available or if SU must adjust the policy considering new federal, state, local or USM regulations and policies.