

October 30, 2020

RE: Lab Space Guidelines

Dear Colleagues:

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our faculty, staff, and students who resumed work on campus under the safety and social distancing requirements of the University's *Resumption of Research* plan to protect the health and safety of our campus community. The guidelines outlined in that plan included a minimum requirement of at least 6 feet of spacing between any two individuals at a given time, the use of a face covering, and a maximum occupancy requirement of 250 square feet per person in wet bench laboratory spaces.

Under this guidance, our labs have continued to be a safe environment, as evidenced by the lack of COVID-19 cases associated with the labs.

We know that adherence to these guidelines has also resulted in challenges. With this in mind, we have worked with university leaders to adjust the density guideline for wet bench laboratories from 250 square feet to a minimum of 150 square feet required per individual. This new guideline will be effective beginning the week of Nov. 30.

Please note that while each college and unit will implement this guideline according to their specific needs and requirements, the baseline density guideline is 150 square feet per individual. The following requirements also must be maintained to ensure a safe implementation of the revised guideline:

- Continued strong and consistent adherence to EU safety protocols and procedures;
- Continued access to reliable PPE supply chains and additional environmental infrastructure to support CDC recommendations, including air flow requirements; and
- Continued monitoring by school and/or unit-level risk mitigation teams.

Contingency plans are in place, should circumstances change – including the possibility of reverting back to 250 square feet per individual.

More details are forthcoming about implementation of these guidelines from the schools and units. Anyone who plans to come on campus must complete [onboarding tasks](#). Faculty and staff can [check their status](#) to be on campus. Remember that all faculty will need to repeat aspects of the onboarding process for the Spring semester.

Thank you,

**Jan Love**

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Jonathan S. Lewin**

Executive Vice President for Health Affairs,  
Executive Director, Woodruff Health Sciences Center,  
CEO and Chairman of the Board, Emory Healthcare