

# DBS Specific COVID-19 Protocol

**Personal Hygiene:** Please pay attention to personal hygiene because the virus spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Other individuals may be infected when they touch a surface that has virus particles on it and then touches their own mouth, nose, or eyes. Hand hygiene is the very best weapon.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Don't touch your face. This is a lot harder than it sounds and requires conscious effort.
- **Always wear a mask of recommended specification** when you are on campus.
- Stay home if you are feeling sick, and seek medical guidance.

**Social Distancing:** Keep your distance and stay at least six feet away from others.

- Make your meetings and chats virtual.
- Don't hug or shake hands.
- Make a conscious effort to avoid crowds. For example, think about walking up the stairs instead of the elevator. If you are accessing common equipment like the DI water, do not crowd around the equipment. Keep distance and wait for your turn.

**Keep surfaces clean:** Diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol should be effective against the COVID-19 virus.

- First, clean dirt off of the surface.
- Then wipe the surface with disinfectant. Leave the surface wet with disinfectant for as many minutes as the product instructions require.
- Clean the right surfaces - High-touch areas such as door handles, phones, remote controls, light switches – in the lab.
- Common instruments and the bench tops need to be cleaned with some disinfectants (e.g. 70% alcohol) every once in a while.
- Horizontal surfaces such as benchtops, desktops, and other places where respiratory droplets could land.
- AND your mobile phone.

- Use one disinfectant wipe for each surface and then throw it out.
- Do not dry surfaces after wiping them down. Surfaces you are disinfecting need to stay wet for some amount of time.
- Follow the specific cleaning protocols of individual labs
- Follow institutional rules – not more than 4 individuals in a single lab (750 sqft) at a given time
- For any ongoing or future research project which involves human sample or human subjects, all precautions should be taken to avoid any possibility of SARS-CoV-2 virus contamination.

Developing these habits is a good long-term strategy for keeping you and the community healthy. Good hand hygiene and proper disinfection will also help fight seasonal influenza, colds, and other viruses.

#### **For faculty colleagues:**

Individual PI should ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfectant protocols for their own lab which are included but not limited to

- Provide sufficient hand sanitizer, mask, hand gloves for your students
- Equipment surface, doors handles, sinks, workbench, sitting place
- NO FOOD inside the lab
- Use soap dispenser in the washing basin
- Remove shoes outside and floor mat at the main door
- Use mask inside the lab as far as possible
- Keep one extra pair of masks for laboratory use (do not use the same mask which you use for outside the building)
- Use your laminar flow or safety cabinet carefully: Use UV and other cleaning measures before you start working inside the hood or closed culture room. This should be followed every time before starting work
- As suggested by the Institute not more than four persons at a time should present inside the lab and PI should arrange a roster to maintain that

#### **DBS common facility:**

- One dept staff should routinely clean the surfaces (at least twice a day) for that equipment, which is expected to be used heavily and frequently. Such equipment/facilities should be identified by the Dept.

- This staff will be properly trained and provided with appropriate disinfectant/cleaning items
- We should use signage at various points: Common facility, Walk-in chiller room, Tissue culture facility, Central facility within DBS floor (FIST room/Animal House/Imaging facility/FACS facility etc), wash room.
- All the common doors should be kept open as far as possible to ensure minimum contact
- The Dept should think about buying antibody detection kit just for our internal/lab wise surveillance

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