

Close Proximity Refresher

April 23, 2021

What is close proximity? Practical definition is working within 6 ft of another person for any length of time. (Doesn't include passing someone in the hall.)

For close proximity research and training, follow guidance at <https://covid-19.engin.umich.edu/research-resources/close-proximity/#guidance>

Alternative Measures

Alternative measures to eliminate the need for close contact should be rigorously explored prior to seeking an exception to physical distancing during research procedures. Measures to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Remaining more than 6 feet apart and alternating positions near the sample or equipment, with frequent decontamination of surfaces and equipment.
- Introducing a temporary plexiglass barrier(s) or partition(s).
- Rearrangement of laboratory instruments and/or equipment to better accommodate distancing.

Evidence suggests that enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) minimizes the potential transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the strain of coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Appropriate Conditions

Close proximity research procedures may be permissible under the following conditions:

- **Enhanced PPE** : Lab coat, gloves, and surgical face mask with the addition of a face shield must be used when at least 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be achieved.
 - Surgical masks may be reused but should be replaced if the mask becomes wet or visibly soiled.
 - Face shields should be decontaminated after each use and stored in a clean area or discarded, if not reusable.

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☆ **Richard Vanden Heuvel**

Yesterday at 12:48 PM

RV

Fwd: Your form, Request to Perform Close Proximity Research, has new responses.

To: Gary Was, Joanne Navarre

Hi Gary - Your close proximity request is approved.

Stay well!!

Hoover

Rick Vanden Heuvel
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Director, Research Development
College of Engineering
University of Michigan
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Principal Investigator Attestation

The Principal Investigator assumes the responsibility to ensure that all parties involved in close proximity research understand their responsibilities and that they comply with all the safety requirements of the Close Proximity Research Exception outlined above and in the approval notification. The PI should confirm all parties are comfortable with the plan as proposed and describe the escalation process if, at any point, personnel have concerns about their safety.

As part of the application process, the PI will attest to the following:

- I have discussed the requirements for close proximity training with all lab members.
- Laboratory personnel involved in the close proximity work will comply with all enhanced PPE requirements to perform close proximity work and follow all cleaning/disinfection protocols that are appropriate for the procedure(s) and, if required, that have been approved by EHS.
- Laboratory personnel will adhere to existing 6-foot physical distancing and maximum room density directives in place by the University of Michigan when not performing work approved under this Close Proximity safety plan.
- Laboratory personnel have been made aware that lab safety issues, including personnel who are ill or not following safety protocols, may be reported via the U-M compliance hotline website, by calling 866-990-0111, or contacting EHS at 734-647-1143 or emailing EHS-Covid-19-Reporting@umich.edu

Your attendance will be recorded and entered into the appropriate lab SOP by Ovidiu or Connor