

EHS COVID-19 SAFETY CHECKS

Environmental Health and Safety has been asked to conduct periodic building walkthroughs to assess spaces for compliance with COVID-19 related infection control procedures that are outlined in building and unit reopening plans. These walkthroughs are:

- **Brief:** The goal is to spend no more than 15 minutes per space.
- **Snapshot in time:** These are intended to be a spot check of compliance with required procedures.
- **Provide feedback:** When possible, feedback is provided on site at the time of the visit. In addition, the PI/unit manager/chair/etc. is contacted as needed once the walkthrough is completed.

COMMON ISSUES

The most common issues we find are:

- Improper disinfection for COVID-19.
 - Ensure the product being used is found on the [EPA's List N](#), the protocol matches EPA's guidance, and it is mixed to the proper concentration. Including the dwell time when labeling disinfectant will help all lab members know and follow the protocol.
 - 70% alcohol must be maintained wet for a full 5-minutes. This requires respraying the area as it evaporates.
 - 10% bleach must be made up every day and the dwell time is 10 minutes.
 - Setting a timer for your disinfectant is a great way to ensure you have allowed it to sit long enough.
- Face coverings not being worn or worn improperly.
 - Face masks must cover mouth and nose and fit to the person's face with no gapping, please refer to the [CDC's website](#) for more detail.
- Personnel are not maintaining six feet distance/following capacity limits.
 - Use a tape measure to visualize what six feet is. When setting up lab areas, ensure the six feet covers how the space will be used. Many times, once lab members sit or use their lab bench, they no longer are six feet apart.
 - Occupants of the space should know what the capacity is for the room they are in. Posting this on the door is helpful.
 - If specific procedures require that personnel be less than 6 feet apart, then face shields must be worn.