NIST Safety and Health Protocols and Practices Preventing COVID19 on Campus

Elizabeth Mackey, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Safety, Health and Environment
Chief Safety Officer

COVID-19 Health and Safety at NIST

NIST

- ✓ NIST met OPM/OMB criteria, entered Phase 1 on July 6, 2020

- ✓ Ongoing implementation of OPM/OMB and DOC guidance at NIST, monitoring external and internal conditions

- ✓ COVID-19 health and safety requirements formalized in NIST Directives

- ✓ NIST Training "NIST Safe Return to Campus for Phase 1" Version 1 issued in June; currently on version 4

- ✓ Refined procedures for reporting and responding to possible COVID-19 cases

- ✓ Focus on communicating new requirements and answering questions: Town Hall meetings, FAQs, website, guidance

New Since June VCAT

NIST Notice 2200.00 *Phased Re-opening During Pandemic Conditions*

NIST Notice 2200.01 *Requirements to Mitigate Spread of COVID-19 On Campus*

NIST Notice 2200.02 *Use of Cloth Face Coverings During Pandemic Conditions*

NIST Notice 2200.03 *Visitor and Contractor Protocols for Mitigating COVID on Campus*

Updated NIST Suborder 7101.20 Work and Worker Authorization based on Hazard Reviews
    Added Requirement to update Hazard Reviews during off normal operations

Also Issued:
    OHRM's "Supervisors' Guide: Talking to Staff About Returning to Onsite Work"
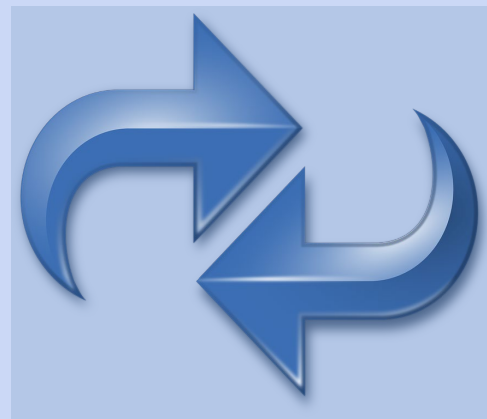   *20 Individual guides to help implement the safety requirements*

STRATEGY TO PREVENT COVID-19 TRANSMISSION AT NIST

KEEP COVID OFF CAMPUS, KILL VIRUS, RESPOND TO POTENTIAL CASES, BARRIERS TO EXPOSURE, REDUCE DOSE
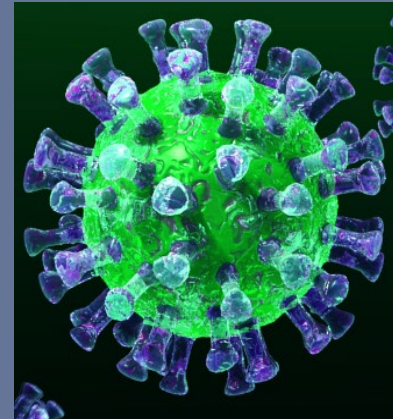

Person-to-Person:
Ill/Infectious Person

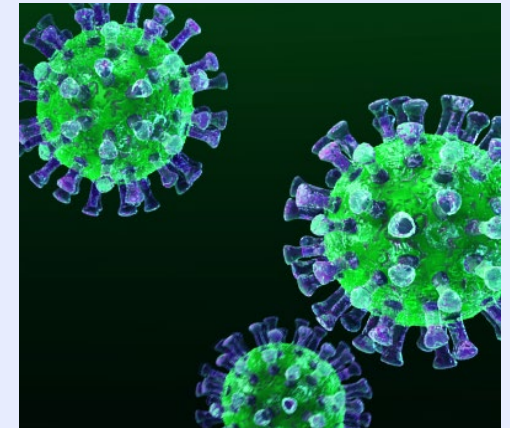- X Daily Health and Exposure Screening

Person-to-Person, Respiratory Droplets:

- X Face Coverings
- X Workplace Distance
- X Time around others (<15 min)

Object-to Person:

- X Routine cleaning
- X Incident-based disinfection
- X Wash/sanitize hands
- X Time between space uses (72 h)

Person-to-Person Shared Spaces, Virus in Aerosols

- X Ventilation (dilution)
- X Distance
- X Time spent in common areas

NIST Daily COVID-19 Screening Covers:

- **Symptoms**

- **COVID test status**

- **Recovering from COVID**

- **Exposure to others**

- **Travel to high risk areas**

Requirement to stay off campus and self-monitor

COVID-19 Screening

Please review these questions each day prior to coming to the NIST campus. You are not required to retain copies or to provide copies of this form to anyone at NIST.

Symptom Checklist: Today, are you experiencing any of the following symptoms not caused by another known condition?	Yes	No
Cough	☐	☐
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (unrelated to physical activities)	☐	☐
Fever over 100.4 °F (38 °C) or Chills	☐	☐
Headache (bad, or severe)	☐	☐
Muscle pain/body aches (unrelated to physical activities)	☐	☐
Sore throat	☐	☐
New loss of taste or smell	☐	☐
Vomiting/nausea or diarrhea	☐	☐
In the last 10 days have you tested positive for COVID-19?	☐	☐

COVID-19 Return to Campus: if you are recovering from COVID-19, are all of the following true:	True	False
You have not had a fever (>100.4F) for more than 24 h and you are not taking fever-reducing medications; it has been more than 10 days since onset of symptoms; and your symptoms have improved.	☐	☐

Exposure Checklist: In the last 14 days have you:	Yes	No
Spent more than 15 minutes, within 6 feet (or 2 meters) of someone with known or suspected to have COVID-19?	☐	☐
Spent any time in your home with someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 or who currently has COVID-like symptoms?	☐	☐

Travel Checklist: In the last 14 days have you:	Yes	No
Traveled to or from a state with a stay-at-home order in place, or with a high rate of COVID-19 spread*	☐	☐
Traveled internationally to a country with a Level 3 or Level 4 Health Advisory. See US. State Department Travel Advisories.	☐	☐

See CDC: List of Symptoms

Contact your supervisor or sponsor if you answered "Yes" to any of these questions. You are not permitted to enter campus today (unless you are recovering from COVID-19 and meet criteria in the next section).

You may not enter the campus if you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days, regardless of whether or not you have symptoms.

See CDC Discontinue Isolation for Persons with COVID-19

Inform your supervisor or sponsor if this applies. You may be permitted on campus if you meet these criteria. If you

answered "False" you are not permitted to enter campus today.

See CDC COVID9 Prevention Tips

Contact your supervisor or sponsor if you answered "Yes" to either of these questions. If you answered "Yes", you are not permitted to enter campus today.

See US. State Department Travel Advisories

States with high rates of COVID9 spread are listed below. If you simply traveled through the state, you may answer "No."
Contact your supervisor or sponsor if you answered "Yes" to either of these questions. If you answered "Yes," you are not permitted to enter campus today.

*Effective Dates Oct. 5 – 12, 2020, states with high rates of COVID-19 spread include: AR, IA, ID, KS, MO, MT, ND, NE, OK, SD, UT, WI, WY.

Training: Comprehensive, detailed and up to date

OPENING UP NIST AGAIN *safely*

NIST Safe Return to Campus Training for **Phase 1 - Version 4**

Required for all returning staff

>3558 Staff have completed this training

1. Definitions and Terms
2. COVID-19 Spread, Symptoms
3. High-risk Staff
4. Supervisor Responsibilities
    1. Updating Hazard Reviews/JHAs
    2. Controls to mitigate exposure
    3. Risk for exposure
    4. Workplace distancing
    5. Reporting, disinfections and contact notification
5. Staff Responsibilities
    - Daily personal health screening protocols
    - Reporting to supervisors
    - Badging-in procedures at campus access points
    - Use of cloth face coverings or masks
    - Workplace distancing
    - Traveling about campus
    - Participation in disinfection efforts
6. Recommended Best Practices
7. Visitors and Contractors
8. Resources and Additional Information

Response to Potential Cases: Report, Disinfect and Notify

NIST

Report

Status Report to DOC: Teleworking, symptomatic, no longer symptomatic, self-monitoring, COVID-19 positive, COVID-19 recovered
BOO issued flow chart to assist staff and managers in reporting data

Disinfect

When staff report COVID-19 symptoms and have been on campus within 48 h of experiencing symptoms, spaces they occupied are either disinfected by OSHE or closed for a minimum of 72 h. Affected building staff are notified of room closures.

Notify

Staff who spent 15 min within 6' of of the symptomatic person are notified of the potential for exposure to COVID-19 and instructed to quarantine for 14 d or until notified that the symptomatic person tested negative for COVID-19
OSHE leads this process using template and set of emails to ensure consistency

Focus on Communication

Town Hall Meetings

    FAQs from Town Halls posted on NIST net (10 categories, 110 questions)

Guide and flowchart on reporting requirements

Guides for health and safety requirements and best practices (20 guides)

Comprehensive guide for supervisors on HR policies, practices, guidance on high risk staff

Signage on campus provides reminders

Safety web site– links to directives, guides, training, signs, FAQs

# External Criteria for Phased Re-opening (data from Oct 7 report)

External Criteria	Colorado	Δ	Boulder Co.	Δ	Maryland	Δ	Montgomery Co.	Δ
14-d downward trend in new COVID-19 cases	SED: No significant downward trajectory	=	SED: Significant downward trajectory	↑	SED: No significant rebound	=	SED: No significant rebound	=
	OSHE: 3 days negative slopes following >14 days of positive slopes for 7-d rolling averages	↑	OSHE: 7 d negative slopes after 14 d of positive slopes for 7-d rolling averages	↑	OSHE: >14 d negative or near zero slopes for 7-d rolling averages	↑	OSHE: 3 d positive slopes after negative or near zero slopes for 7-d rolling averages	↓
14-d downward trend in flu and flu-like illnesses	Sustained decrease 196 d	↑	NA		Sustained decrease 154 d	↑	NA	
Hospital Capacity Targets: <70% occupied beds, <80% ICU beds	49.2% 2.9%	↑ ↑	76% 86%	↑ ↑	70.9% 6.0%	↑ =	68% 60%	↓ ↓
% Positive Tests (<5%)	3.78% (7-d avg)	↑	2.6% (5-d avg)	↑	2.95% (7-d avg)	↓	2.6% (3-d avg)	↑
Testing Capacity Gap Nominal target (10%)	5.1%	↓	NA		7.7%	↓	NA	
Operating status	Level 2: June 19	=	Level 2: June 19	=	Phase 3: Sept 4	↑	Phase 2: June 19	=
DOC/Census Dashboard	Phase 2	=	Phase 0	=	Phase 1	↑	Phase 0	=

Internal Criteria for Phased Re-Opening

	Date	Boulder Campus	Gaithersburg Campus
New Safety Protocols Issued	**No change**	All new directives approved and posted on iNET.	
Return to Campus Training	10/6/20	V4 Safe Return to Campus available (**3541** staff have completed the training)	
Disinfectant and Hand sanitizer (30-d supply)	**No Change**	Boulder has sufficient supplies for phase 1. Janitorial services contractor is required to acquire and maintain a 30-day supply. Minor insufficiencies will be covered by Gaithersburg supplies if needed.	Gaithersburg has sufficient supplies for phase 1. Janitorial services contractor is required to acquire and maintain a 30-day supply. OFPM has acquired and will maintain a separate 30-d supply.
Supplemental Ventilation	10/6/20	Ventilation evaluated for multi-user spaces on a case-by-case basis. To date >78 evaluations, 8 supplemental units needed	Ventilation evaluated for multi-user spaces on a case-by-case basis. To date, >65 evaluations. 8 supplemental units needed

Internal Staffing and COVID-19 Case Metrics

NIST

Staff on Campus
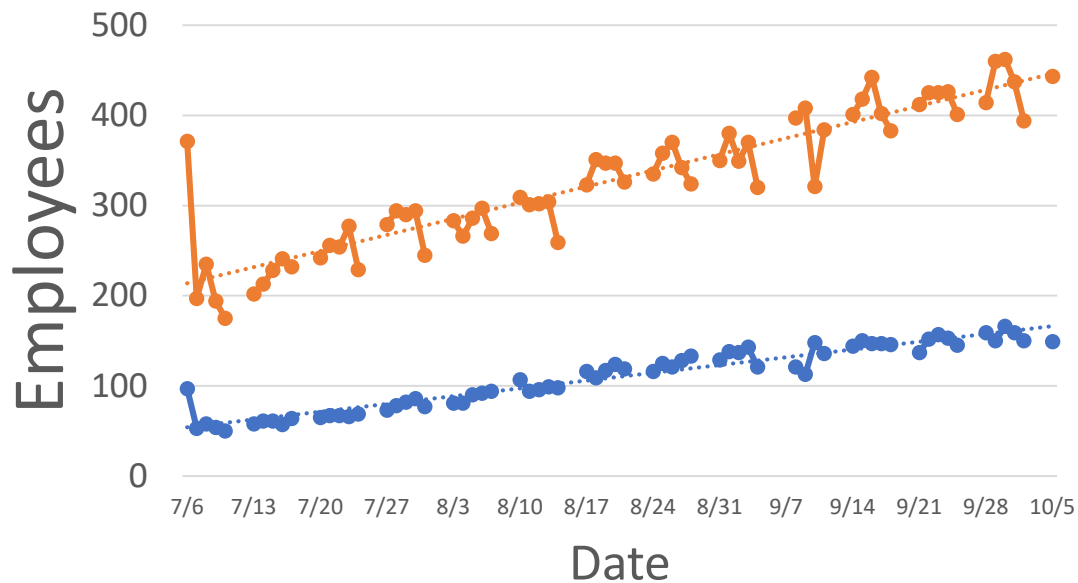
Legend:
- Boulder Staff on Campus
- Gaithersburg Staff on Campus
- Linear (Boulder Staff on Campus)
- Linear (Gaithersburg Staff on Campus)

COVID Responses on NIST Campuses

- As of Phase 1 (July 6, 2020), there were 17 possible cases in which a person was on campus ≤ 48 h of having COVID-like symptoms

- Space disinfected for 10 cases

- Close contacts notified for 3 cases

- None of the 17 tested positive

Staffing: Gaithersburg (10% to 12%) Boulder (17% to 19%)

Total COVID-19 Cases Recorded: 13 during Phase 1, none on campus while infected