

SAFETY NEWSLETTER – COVID SPECIAL EDITION

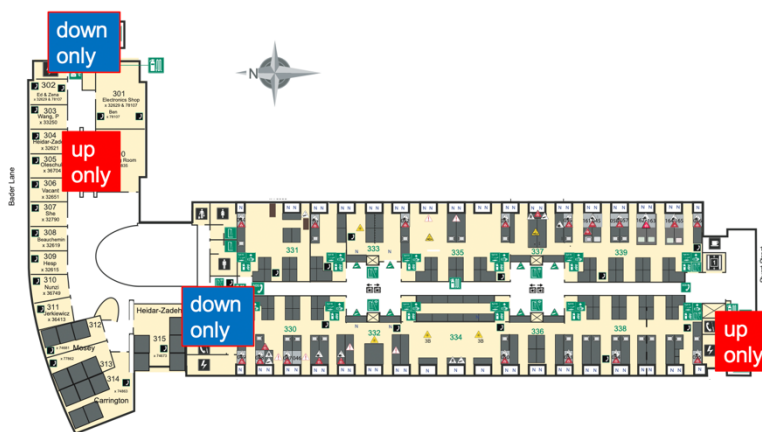
Department of Chemistry, Queen's University

19 June 2020

This newsletter contains Covid-related safety advice that was NOT covered in the safety training on the 5th of June.

1. Stairwells in Chernoff Hall.

The four stairwells in Chernoff Hall have been made unidirectional. That is, two of them have been declared “UP ONLY” and two are now “DOWN ONLY”. Do not attempt to go in the wrong direction. This should decrease the number of person-person encounters in stairwells. Of course, these restrictions do not apply during an emergency evacuation.



2. Floor markings in research labs

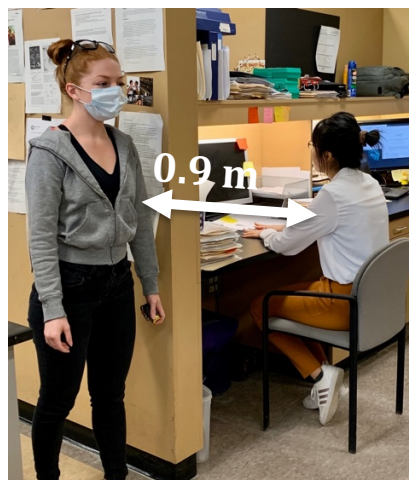
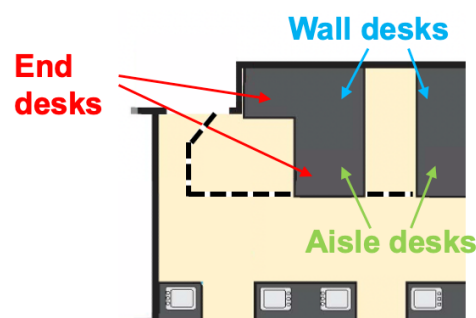
Desks in the research labs are of three types. See the illustration.

- Wall desks: the desks close to the wall are safest in terms of avoiding covid transmission. They are the furthest from traffic. Use only these desks, if you can.

- End desks: the desks close to doors are more risky. Put tape on the floor to encourage passersby to walk near the wall. See left photo.

- Aisle desks: the desks close to the aisle are also risky. If you're working at one of those desks, you're <math><1\text{ m}</math> away from people walking by. See right photo. Try not to use these desks if it can be avoided. If you're walking in the aisle past occupied desks like this, wear a mask.

Put floor markings near the end desks and across the entrance of desk bays, using the black and white tape available from Science Stores. See illustration and left photo.



3. Science Stores

Don't walk down to Stores to buy or pick up something – that won't work during the Phase 2 partial reopening of Chernoff Hall. You and your labmates should make a lab supply order together (consolidate your orders) and enter your order into the online Google form. There are separate forms for

- orders for products in stock
- gas cylinders
- special orders (Sigma, Fisher, other companies)

Once your order is ready, you'll be contacted by email to arrange a pick-up time. Anyone who shows up at Science Stores at any other time will be turned away. (*The instructions for using Science Stores and any other facilities in Chemistry are on our departmental COVID website*).



4. Signage in labs

What COVID-related signage should there be in your lab?

- Disinfection schedule (what will be disinfected? When? By whom?)
- Shift schedule (Days, hours, names, cell phone numbers)
- Lunch schedule (Names and lunchtimes. Stagger the times)
- Room occupancy limit. Should be on the doors.
- Coughing and Sneezing Etiquette
- Hand Washing Procedure (post it at sinks nearest the exits)
- COVID-19 Research Safety Protocol

The last four items are available from our COVID website.

5. Don't forget regular safety!

Now that everyone is focussing on COVID safety, don't forget chemistry lab safety! I did a quick tour of the labs in Chernoff last week and found that the most common safety violation was failure to wear eye protection in the lab portion of the research wing rooms. It makes no sense to protect yourself from COVID but not from eye injury or other serious harm.

Questions or Concerns about Safety? Please bring them to the attention of your supervisor. For further information, contact the Safety Committee Chair (Philip Jessop, jessop@queensu.ca) or our Safety Officer (Heather Drouillard, Heather.Drouillard@chem.queensu.ca). Suggestions for the newsletter are always welcome.