OVERVIEW

Initially after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, all labs were closed only allowing essential workers access to maintain critical lab functions. This SOP describes requirements and procedures for partially opened labs allowing access to select researchers to resume some lab activity. This is termed “Phase 3” which means 10-25% activity with 5-15% of normal personnel.

Engineering II contains three departments, with the center of gravity on each floor being Materials (Floor 1), Mechanical Engineering (Floor 2) and Chemical Engineering (Floor 3). Therefore Phase 3 will be managed overall and on a floor by floor basis with manager for each floor:

Floor 1: Deryck Stave, dstave@ucsb.edu
Floor 2: Chris Torbet, ctorbet@ucsb.edu
Floor 3: Mike Best, mbest@ucsb.edu

The pre-pandemic occupancy of Engineering II was comprised of 521 faculty, staff and graduate students. The maximum number of occupants in EII laboratories in Phase 3 will be 61 researchers (graduate students, postdoctoral researchers) and 5 research staff. This totals to 13% of the pre-pandemic capacity. By floor the numbers are: 27 (floor 1), 21 (floor 2) and 18 (floor 3). Each floor individually will also be below 15% capacity in Phase 3.

Daily Conditions for Lab Entry

Preconditions:

- Approval of building level committee of individual lab SOP and density of lab personnel.
- Access only for researchers who already have completed lab safety training, have a physical key or key card access and have documented their review of the building and laboratory level SOPs.
- No sign or symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness or exposure to individuals who are positive for COVID-19. If so, stay home and quarantine for at least 14 days in accordance with CDC guidance. Seek testing in accordance with guidance from County and Campus. Notify PI of status immediately, PI’s to inform Building Committee contacts.
- Obtain lab access approval from PIs, who will coordinate priorities. Once approved, then schedule specific lab time with the Building Committee calendar.
- Lab sessions should be scheduled with one hour gaps to allow for full air return.
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• Each person must complete the attestation document on day of entry regarding health condition.
• In Phase 3, public spaces (kitchens, lounges), meeting rooms and offices remain closed.

Scheduling Guidelines & Personnel Density
Specify Lab Time:

• Sign in to Google Calendar for the floor that corresponds to the lab you will use and select a reservation date along with a time block following current scheduling instructions. Enter a lab room number and your name. Google calendars will be maintained by floor managers: Floor 1 (Deryck Stave), Floor 2 (Chris Torbet), Floor 3 (Mike Best). If maximum occupancy is exceeded, floor managers will notify individuals of the need to rebook.

• Reference Lab SOP for minimum and maximum occupancy in any specific lab space. Also reference lab SOP for procedures regarding use of PPE within laboratory and handling of chemicals and other hazards.

Building Traffic Flow
Follow Rules:

• External open staircases will be marked “up” (see maps). Internal closed staircases will be marked “down” and traffic flow should follow these instructions, which will be posted.
• Only one person at a time in the elevators; use the elevators only when necessary.
• Traffic flow on the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways will be predominately clockwise. The exception may be for going short distances. Look down the hallway when exiting the lab and yield to anyone who may already be walking there. The goal is to minimize exposure and to avoid people passing each other in close quarters. Use common sense. Narrow hallways on 1st floor will also flow clockwise and more open spaces on ground floor will require social distancing.
• Obey signs indicating PPE requirements, traffic flow and personal space requirements.

PPE/Safety Equipment:

Every lab has existing SOPs and safety protocols. In addition the following safety equipment will be available in all labs:

• Minimum standard face mask per individual laboratory safety SOPs, or optional masks that exceed minimum standard
• Disposable gloves
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• Safety glasses or face shield
• Disinfectant spray/wipes
• Hand sanitizer

Building and Lab Entry
Initial Entry Procedures:

• Wear face mask or face covering whenever on campus to and from lab in accordance with Campus policy.
• Attach signage outside lab indicating “Lab Occupied / In Use”.
• With gloves, disinfect building door handle as well as laboratory workspace upon initial entry using 70% Isopropanol or 10% bleach solution. This will include faucet handles, light switches, door handles, and any equipment or tools being used (knobs, switches, any touchpoints)
• After sanitizing the workspace, wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.
• Bathroom procedures: One person at a time. Follow instructions posted at the entry to all restrooms.

Phase 3 Specific Lab Use
Lab Usage:

• Reference Laboratory specific SOP
• Perform work efficiently, planning operations beforehand.
• Be cognizant of touching surfaces, avoiding touching your face.
• Wash hands frequently.
• Be a good citizen and respect concerns of others in lab and building

Lab Exit
End of Use Procedures:

• Wipe down all touched surfaces with disinfectant, remove and store laboratory specific SOP as per laboratory SOP.
• Wash hands.
• Put on face mask or face covering.
• Turn off lab lights and remove “Lab Occupied/In Use” signage.

Additional Phase 3 Safety Procedures
Notes:

• Make every effort to practice social distancing with face covering in hallways and when using the restroom.
• Floor managers may notify department chairs of violations of these policies.