

Return to Work Information and Policies

Useful VCR web page and Monitor Testing web page:

<https://www.colorado.edu/researchinnovation/return-campus-and-field-work-resources>

<https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/monitoring-testing#locations>

General Policy:

On-campus research by anyone – graduate students, undergraduate students, postdocs, faculty – requires VCR approval. The Department of Chemistry follows, at a minimum, all campus COVID-19 safety and related policies. Where a difference in policies exists, the more stringent policy is in effect and must be followed.

Mask and Testing Guidelines (update February 2021):

- 1) Because of community spread of more transmissible COVID-19 variants and their likely dominance by the end of March, the Chemistry Department Return to Research Committee is modifying its mask requirements. Our intention is to achieve better compliance with mask fit but to do this with quantifiable and adequate filtration. Please utilize one of the options listed below when you are in Chemistry Facilities. Please inform your research advisor as to which option you will be using within one week of receiving this document.
 - a. An N95 or KN95 that has been fit tested by EH&S (some TAs have gone through this). Note that for use of such a mask on campus, it has to have been fit tested by a certified organization such as EH&S. Note also that Chem Stores is investigating suppliers to re-stock KN95 masks in the near future and that further opportunities for fit testing through EH&S will become available.
 - b. A double mask (cloth plus medical) with a nose wire on at least the bottom (medical) layer. The medical mask should be 3-ply and can be found in Chem Stores.
 - c. A cloth mask with a nose wire that is two layers and includes a filter inserted between the fabric layers.
 - d. A medical mask with inclusion of a brace. A brace is an attachment that assures a proper fit (please see <https://www.fixthemask.com/>)
- 2) There are new University policies for faculty, staff, and students that are on campus at least once per week. The University is asking that you participate in Monitor Testing on a weekly basis. This is the saliva-based PCR test with results returned to you in < 24 hours. It is high sensitivity and when used broadly can be a very effective tool to prevent community spread at CU and in our department. There are convenient locations for chemistry researchers including the UMC and the SEEC/SEEL complex. Hours of operation are M-F 8:30-5:00 pm. <https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/monitoring-testing#locations>

Travel Policy for Chemistry Researchers (update December 2020):

General Statements.

On-campus research is a privilege; these policies govern returning to on-campus research after *ANY* travel, *including personal travel*.

First and foremost, the R2R committee recommends that if at all possible, you should avoid travel at this time. COVID-19 cases are rising/high nationally at this time in part driven by inter- and intra-state Thanksgiving travel. The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and others is to stay put for now until transmission rates have fallen significantly.

However, we understand that for self-care or family care, avoiding travel may not be an option. If you intend to travel, please adhere to the policies outlined below. Note that in-person classes will not start until Feb. 15th at the earliest. Therefore, the policies are put in place to maintain a safe environment for researchers in chemistry.

These policies were established using information from CU, the CDC, and the CDPHE. More restrictive policies could later come from any of these organizations and at that point those policies would supersede these. Individual research groups are free to establish more restrictive policies in consultation with the R2R committee. However, they are not free to establish less restrictive policies. It is noted that these are Chemistry policies. If an individual works in laboratories of an institute with more restrictive travel policies, they should follow those. If an individual works in an institute with less restrictive travel policies and is *not* using services in Chemistry buildings, that individual can follow those institute policies.

Policies.

Protecting others during travel and at destination

- Do not travel if you or any of your travel companions,
 - Are sick
 - Have suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 (even if you don't have symptoms)
 - Have been around someone with suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 in the past 14 days (even if they did not have symptoms).
- Students, faculty and staff should plan to visit a COVID-19 monitoring testing location 48–72 hours before you leave. (*Please see Useful Information below for a description of this type of testing*)

Protecting the CU Community upon return

- Air, rail, or bus travel to and from another state:
 - Prior to returning to campus, you must obtain a negative COVID Surveillance Monitoring Test **7 days** after the return travel. (*Please see Useful Information below for a description of this type of testing*)

- Best practices for protecting members of your household is to also test at 4 days after travel although you should not return to campus until after the 7 day negative test.
- Car trips to and from another state or overnight stays at another Colorado destination:
 - Here you have more control over the social distancing you maintain during the trip itself and at the destination.
 - Prior to returning to campus, you must obtain negative COVID Surveillance Monitoring Test **7 days** after interactions *where you assumed risk greater than what you would assume shopping at a grocery store in Boulder with a mask.*
 - Factor if you have traveled to or through a destination where transmission rates are particularly high.
 - Factor whether you traveled with individuals outside your household.
- If you engage in other travel activities where you have exposure risk (for example, an extended drive with others outside your household).
 - You are expected to obtain a negative COVID Surveillance Monitoring Test **7 days** after the travel prior to returning to campus
- Day car trips within the State with members of your household (e.g. ski trips)
 - Here you again have more control.
 - If you drive with only members of your household, avoid restaurants and indoor gatherings, exercise social distancing and mask wearing at all relevant times, and return to Boulder after the trip, you may return to work without further testing.
 - Because you are likely to use facilities that also service many outside visitors, it would still be prudent to get tested 4 days after the trip.

Useful information.

- CU guidance on travel: <https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/traveling-monitoring>
- COVID Surveillance Monitoring Testing: <https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/symptoms-testing#monitoring> (note this service is currently scheduled to be closed 12/24/20 – 1/3/21)
 - At CU we are fortunate to have this free and available resource. It is a saliva-based PCR analysis with high sensitivity. You receive your results within 24 hours with analyses taking place in JSCBB. This mode of testing is and will be available week days (excluding holiday closure listed above) to anyone with a Buff OneCard for the foreseeable future.
 - Prior to January 8th this service is also available to family members and immediate household members of Buff OneCard holders

(<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2020/11/20/cu-making-saliva-based-pcr-covid-19-tests-available-immediate-family-household-members>).

- Students, faculty, and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should **not** visit the on-campus monitoring site and should instead contact their medical provider or utilize community testing sites (<https://www.bouldercounty.org/families/disease/covid-19/testing/>).

Field Work Policy for Chemistry Researchers (update November 2020):

Given the current COVID-19 situation, conducting field work must be approached with great caution and appropriate provisions to keep all personnel safe. COVID-19 prevalence at each destination should be considered and requests for fieldwork should address safety concerns with respect to travel, lodging and meals, quarantine requirements, and on-site work precautions at each destination. For scheduled fieldwork that is critical to a project, faculty should make the request and provide a justification in a timely fashion to allow for travel approvals well in advance of the travel. Field work that is unscheduled and that arises due to an emergency situation should be submitted with a justification of why the work is critical to the project and will be reviewed by the R2R committee in an expedited fashion.

R2R COMMITTEE FIELDWORK REQUEST PROCESS

