COVID-19
Guidance for Close Contact Research Activities

Close contact activities are those that require people to be within six (6) feet of each other for longer than fifteen (15) minutes.

Follow the below guidance when conducting research activities (e.g., including training, work with animals, etc.) that require close contact. Contact EH&S at EHS@usc.edu for a risk assessment if needed, preferably before beginning work.

1. Avoid close contact if possible.
   a. Eliminate or limit number of procedures being performed in a small enclosed spaces.
   b. Restructure procedures to have one person doing work at a time; when tasks must be performed simultaneously by multiple people, complete those tasks while maximizing physical distancing.

2. Keep the same team over multiple days and procedures, if possible.

3. Take breaks when possible. Decontaminate surfaces, don new PPE, and clean face shields before going on breaks.

4. Ensure all team members follow the USC protocols for Returning to Campus.

5. Ensure there is a system for tracking personnel who have worked in close contact with one another (for contact tracing purposes).

6. Wear face shields and face coverings together for increased safety.

Resources

Returning to Campus Webpage: https://we-are.usc.edu/phases-and-guidelines/returning-to-campus/
COVID Health Screen Guidelines/Trojan Check: https://itservices.usc.edu/feature/trojan-check-v2/