



COVID-19 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE TISSUE CULTURE CORE FACILITY

Background

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Health Sciences Building is, until further notice, closed to everyone except students in a limited number of approved academic activities and personnel approved by the USask [Pandemic Response and Recovery Team \(PRT\)](#) who have obtained an approval permit through the [Request for Campus Activity](#) procedure.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USask Tissue Culture Core Facility has implemented additional Standard Operating Procedures to help ensure the health and safety of all facility users and the general public.

Requirements

Approved research requests

- Only those research activities approved in the *Request for Campus Activity* application are allowed to be undertaken.
- No visitors or non-essential personnel are allowed in the building at this time.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Training

- Everyone accessing the Health Sciences Building must have successfully completed the [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) online training course.

Due to evolving concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, all Tissue Culture Core Facility users are expected to be aware of—and in compliance with—all pandemic-related requirements as outlined by the university and the USask Health Sciences.

The following sites are updated as needed and should be referenced regularly:

- For university COVID-19 updates, visit <https://covid19.usask.ca/>.
- For COVID-19 updates specific to the USask Health Sciences, visit <http://healthsciences.usask.ca/building-operations/covid-19-resources.php>.
 - Be sure to review the *Health Sciences Building Access—Standard Operating Procedures During COVID-19* and *Health Sciences Building COVID-19 Wet Lab General Operating Procedures*.

Site-specific COVID-19 procedures

The Tissue Culture Core Facility has implemented the following additional procedures to be in effect during the pandemic.

- 1) **The maximum capacity of the facility will be no more than five people until further notice.**
- 2) Be aware of the limited space at the main entrance and sink area and maintain a limit of one person in this space at a time.

- 3) Facility users must book a biosafety cabinet in advance on the online booking system located at: <http://healthsciences.usask.ca/booking/equipment/day.php>
 - a. There is a choice of two small 4 ft. biosafety cabinets and three large 6 ft. biosafety cabinets.
 - i. **Before and after use of the protective shield on the biosafety cabinets, there must be thorough and careful disinfection where there is close contact to users' faces.**
 - ii. Each cabinet can provide the required physical distancing between users.
 - iii. No items are permitted to be left in the biosafety cabinets or on the bench. Areas must be clear for disinfection.
- 4) Users must record their time in the Tissue Culture Core Facility by logging in and out on the sheet posted on the doors.
 - a. Individual log sheets are posted inside the entrance for users to document their equipment and area usage and disinfections.
 - b. Log sheets will be returned to their location on the wall once completed.
- 5) Microscopes must be disinfected with 70% ethanol wetted lens paper around the eyepieces and wiped with 70% ethanol wetted kimwipes on the remaining parts.
 - a. Do not spray ethanol directly onto the scopes.
- 6) 70% ethanol stock solution is located in the flammables cabinet when the provided spray bottles are empty. Please use the funnels located in the flammables cabinet to safely refill glass bottles and spray bottles.
 - a. 70% ethanol can be prepared by filling the 2L glass bottles to the marked level indicated on the tape and then filling them with distilled water to the top marked level.
 - b. Distilled water is located at the taps in one of the neighboring labs. There is a metal pouring jug in the flammables cabinet for the water.
- 7) Items stored in the rollout carts near the biosafety cabinets must be contained in the provided plastic bins and labelled with the appropriate user's name.
- 8) The facility may not be checked as regularly as it was during pre-lockdown conditions.
 - a. As such, users must not let the biowaste bins get overly full or put the wrong type of waste in.
 - b. Take a new bin if one is getting full and put the full one aside. Do not overfill.
- 9) The facility fridge has been cleaned of old materials. Users must keep their supplies labelled with their name and contained in a plastic bin to minimize handling from other users.
 - a. Unlabeled and abandoned materials will be discarded.
- 10) Cardboard cases with supplies still in them cannot be stored in the facility or left on the floor.