

GROWTH FACILITIES COMMON AREAS GUIDELINES

Guidelines for Phase 1 resumption of research activities

To safely begin to restart approved research activities that use the Growth Facilities we must minimize the possibility of Covid-19 virus transmission. To accomplish this everybody will have to be vigilant. Maintain social distance and take all precautions to reduce the risk of transmission. We have cleared space in some glasshouses that can be used as work areas to make up for the reduced capacity in other rooms (i.e. B120, B111).

GOALS

- Facilitate safe resumption of research activities using growth facilities areas and equipment
- Provide potting material and growth spaces with required conditions for healthy cultivation and growth.
- Minimize the possibility of virus transmission

PRINCIPALS

- The restart of research in the growth facilities will be coordinated and aligned with University directives.
- Identify common use spaces and set maximum occupancy for these spaces based on the ability to maintain 2m separation. See table 1 of common areas and proposed occupancy.

APPROACH

- The Growth Facilities will modify the usage of some rooms to create more working space.
- Labs schedule activities to minimize the number of people in the growth facilities and common areas at any given time.

General Guidelines

- Personnel must complete their on-site work in the growth facilities as efficiently as possible and only stay in the growth facilities as long as required by the research procedure. During their time in the growth facilities, personnel should limit their time in public areas, including hallways and stairwells.
- Individuals in growth facilities areas must always maintain a minimum of 2m distance.
- Hands should be washed with soap and water or sanitized when entering and leaving potting areas.
- Gloves should be worn in the potting area where the work permits it and removed when leaving the area.
- Working in a room with another person can make physical distancing challenging (B120, 5039). The usage of a non-medical mask will be recommended while in those rooms (*COVID-19-General-Workplace-Guideline-May-28-2020*).
- Maximum occupancy of common rooms is set to maintain >2 metre physical distancing between individuals while working. Signs displaying occupancy limits will be placed at each entrance as well as a list of alternative available potting rooms. (*Guideline Reopening Research Space*).

Potting Rooms

- Each potting room will have a green waste bin for soil disposal, bins lined with clear bags for paper towel disposal, access to water (necessary for soil preparation), hand soap for hand washing, ethanol for sanitization of taps and potting surfaces before and after use.
- Trays, pots and other potting materials will NOT be allowed to be stored (even temporarily) in any of these rooms. Non-essential items must be removed from any counters that the personnel may touch. This will reduce the need to disinfect those items. (*COVID-19-General-Workplace-Guideline-May-28-2020*)
- Trays, pots and other potting materials should be dried outside of the potting rooms, for example in labs.
- A maximum of one sink per potting room can be filled with potting material soaking at a time.
- The maximum allowed soak time is 1 hour.

Autoclave

- Labs will be required to use their own heatproof gloves for operation of the autoclave. There will not be a pair of communal gloves.
- Scheduling for using the autoclaves ($\times 2$) will be done electronically with an online schedule system. The paper forms will be removed.

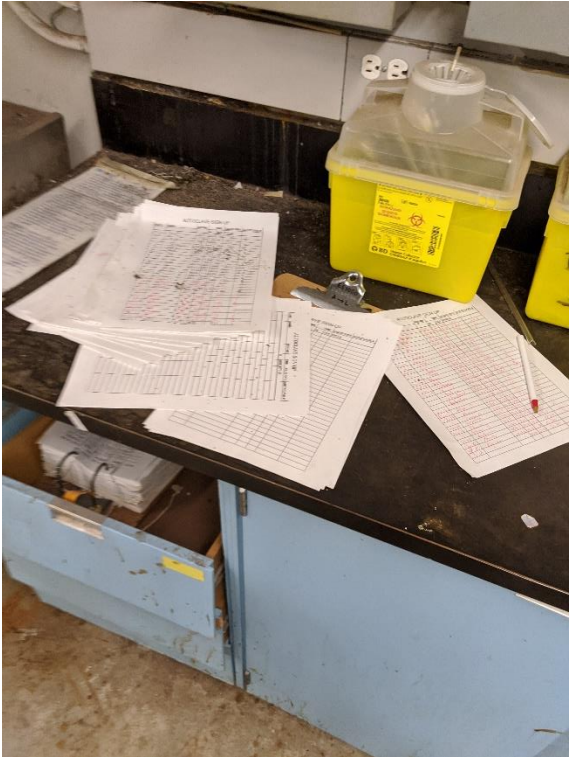
Table 1. List of Common Areas and Potting Rooms

Room	Maximum Occupancy	Materials Needed
B111 (Senescence Room) <i>This room is only for seed collection</i>	<u>1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethanol (70%) bottles • Hand soap in pump bottles • Paper towels
B120 (Autoclave Room)	<u>3</u> (1 per potting table × 2) (1 floating user for access to autoclaves)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethanol (70%) bottles • Hand soap in pump bottles • Paper towels
5020 (Zone 1)	<u>1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray surface for soil mixing • Ethanol (70%) bottles • Hand soap in pump bottles • Paper towels
5025 (Zone 4)	<u>1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray surface for soil mixing • Ethanol (70%) bottles • Hand soap in pump bottles • Paper towels
5038 (Zone 7)	<u>1</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tray surface for soil mixing • Ethanol (70%) bottles • Hand soap in pump bottles • Paper towels
5039 (Potting Room)	<u>2</u> (1 per potting table × 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethanol (70%) bottles • Hand soap in pump bottles • Paper towels

* More greenhouse zones can be converted into potting rooms as needed.

Maximum occupancy for walk-in growth rooms (1-9) is one person. Other rooms with growth chambers (B122, B112, B115, B119, Es2085, Es3087, RW421, 522) will be indicated with signs on the doors.

B120 (Autoclave Room)





5039 (Potting House)



