

**Faculty of Social Science**  
**Research Re-Entry Guidelines for Research Labs and Facilities on Western's Campus**

### **1. Key Guiding Principles**

1. Safety of students, faculty and staff and others is the top priority at all times. This includes incorporating screening procedures and implementing newly accepted norms of hygiene, physical distancing and provision/use of PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
2. Public Health Directives including local, provincial, and federal government guidelines will be diligently followed in planning the timing of reopening labs and restarting research.
3. Equity: Identify, recognize and develop accommodation strategies for structural and other inequities (i.e. health vulnerabilities, family responsibilities, mental health concerns) unique to groups and research settings.
4. Phased Return to Campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/return.html>
5. Health & Safety Information: <https://www.uwo.ca/coronavirus/health-safety.html>

### **2. General Considerations**

- Research laboratories, investigator offices, student work areas, and other research resources cannot open until their respective buildings are opened by the institution and deemed ready for occupancy.
- All faculty, research staff and trainees must complete a Health Assessment Questionnaire prior to returning to work. The questionnaire can be found at <https://myhr.uwo.ca/>. The questionnaire appears as a tile in "My Human Resources" titled "Return to Work Questionnaire".
- All aspects of re-opening at Western will occur as a gradual, phased scale-up of research activity in alignment with occupancy guidelines.
- Be flexible: Conditions are expected to be variable, particularly in the early phases of return. Not all research team members may be able to return, want to return, or need to return. Everyone should work remotely whenever possible.
- Personal Protection, Hand Hygiene, Physical distancing: These are the fundamental defence against transmission of COVID-19. Departmental and individual PI plans need to consider how physical distancing can be achieved (or not) in laboratories, offices, hallways, and common areas.
- Development of detailed plans: All plans must be built first and foremost on the Key Guiding Principles outlined above in addition to including group-specific research plans and priorities. These plans must be made with a mindset of preparedness for change. Labs must be prepared to return to an essential services model and remote work at all times.
- Existing moratoriums on in-person seminars, meetings, thesis exams, conferences, and international travel will remain in place until specifically lifted.
- Visitors, including researchers from outside Western, service personnel, delivery personnel, and vendor representatives must follow existing COVID-19 restrictions for booking appointments.

### **3. Additional Helpful Resources**

PHAC COVID-19 [information](#)

PHAC Risk-Informed Decision-Making Guidelines for [Workplaces](#)

Health Canada recommendations for disinfectants and hand [sanitizers](#)

Western Occupational Health and [Safety](#)

The Risks: Know them, Avoid [Them](#)

PHAC non-medical masks & face [coverings](#)