

## Research Work at Less Than 6 Foot Apart

In some very limited instances, close-in work activities that require researchers working together within a distance of less than 6 feet can be allowed if an approved safety plan is in place. Examples of close-in work include training in a new technique, moving/manipulating heavy or bulky equipment, performing animal surgery, or carrying out research techniques that require more than one person for safety reasons.

Such work requires the consent of all researchers involved, approval at the Department Chair level or equivalent, a plan that delineates the reason why alternatives are not possible (not just inconvenient) and the measures to be taken to maximize safety. Routine, every day work at less than 6 feet for extended time periods should not be proposed except in cases where the research is critical and normally requires full-suit PPE for non-COVID-related reasons. Exceptions may be made under special circumstances, please contact EH&S for advice.

For individual situations, EH&S is available to advise on approaches that could be used. Also, the School of Medicine has guidelines that may be useful:

<https://huddle.uwmedicine.org/sites/huddle/files/2020-05/Safety%20Plan%20for%20Work%20or%20Training%20Requiring%20Personnel%20be%20Within%206%20Feet%20.pdf>