



LLNL Safeguards for Protecting Workers & Visitors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

LLNL has established and implemented robust policies and mitigation strategies, informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as state and local public health authorities, to prevent and reduce COVID-19 transmission among employees and visitors, maintain healthy business operations and maintain a healthy work environment.

1. What COVID-19 controls have been established at LLNL to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 virus transmission on-site?

The Laboratory has established a set of robust COVID-19 controls that, when followed routinely, mitigate the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19. By adhering to these controls, LLNL remains ahead of the notification of an ill employee or confirmed case of COVID-19 in our workers. These controls include:

- All employees must stay home (or go home if they are at work) and contact the 24/7 LLNL COVID-19 hotline to speak with a Health Services clinician prior to returning to work for any of the following reasons:
 - They are experiencing any symptoms (even seemingly mild, unrelated symptoms), are being tested for or have tested positive for COVID-19.
 - They were in direct, close contact with an individual outside of work that tested positive for COVID-19.
 - A member of their household is ill (even with mild, seemingly unrelated symptoms) or is being tested for or has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Treat every individual as potentially infectious – maintain physical distancing.
- Treat every surface as potentially contaminated and:
 - Wash hands (or use hand sanitizer) frequently;
 - Clean/disinfect shared high-touch surfaces routinely throughout the course of the day;
 - Use physical barriers (e.g., paper towels), if desired, when interacting with high touch surfaces.
- Wear a face covering at all times while indoors (unless alone in a private office).
 - This not only reduces the spread of respiratory droplets to other individuals, it also reduces potential contamination of surfaces with respiratory droplets.

2. Does LLNL conduct daily in-person or virtual health checks of employees before they enter the Laboratory?

LLNL utilizes a daily email COVID-19 Wellness Check that all employees authorized to work onsite must complete prior to coming onsite. The daily COVID-19 Wellness Check asks employees to assess their own symptoms as well as those of their household members and reminds employees to stay home and call the 24/7 LLNL COVID-19 hotline if they, or a member of their household, are experiencing any symptoms and speak to a Health Services clinician prior to returning to work.

3. Have any LLNL employees and/or subcontractors been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

The Laboratory, like the surrounding communities, has been affected by COVID-19 and is actively tracking case numbers in our workforce, surrounding counties, and the state of California. Like the surrounding counties in which our workers reside, LLNL has had members of our workforce test positive for COVID-19.

4. In what specific buildings or areas of the Laboratory have employees who tested positive for COVID-19 worked?

LLNL does not provide information regarding specific locations where employees that test positive for COVID-19 have worked. LLNL does not wait for a positive test result – which can take between 3-7 days or longer to receive from when an individual is tested – to take action to protect the workforce and prevent further transmission on-site. Instead, LLNL takes action at the first notification of an illness in an employee that has been onsite within the transmission period (i.e., the 48 hours before symptoms start). These actions include identifying and restricting close co-worker contacts as well as assessing the need for targeted disinfection of shared workspaces on a case-by-case basis. In addition, by employing

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all of the COVID-19 controls listed in question #1 above daily, we are proactively taking action to mitigate the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19 on-site.

5. Does LLNL perform contact tracing and quarantine close co-worker contacts of an employee who tests positive for COVID-19?

LLNL does not wait for an employee to get a positive COVID-19 test result before taking action. LLNL responds to all reports of illness in an LLNL employee or subcontractor and takes immediate, appropriate actions to break the chain of transmission on-site. LLNL established a COVID-19 Rapid Response team – consisting of Health Services clinicians, the Institutional Biosafety Officer and the Environment, Safety & Health (ES&H) Team – to quickly triage, evaluate and mitigate any potential risks associated with the report of an ill individual onsite or that has been onsite within 48 hours of symptoms developing. Health Services clinicians interview the ill individual and perform contact tracing to identify co-workers who had close contact – defined by the CDC as within 6 feet for greater than or equal to 15 minutes – with the employee within 48 hours of the onset of the ill employee’s symptoms. Depending on case-specifics, individuals identified as close contacts may be restricted offsite or required to wear a valveless N95 respirator while onsite for a period of 14 days from their last exposure to the ill individual.

6. Does LLNL notify visitors/vendors of exposure to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 as part of the Laboratory’s contact tracing efforts?

Yes, the Laboratory will notify visitors/vendors if they are identified as close contacts of an ill employee and/or an employee that has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contacts are those individuals that meet the CDC definition for close contacts which includes being within 6 feet for greater than or equal to 15 minutes of an individual within 48 hours prior to the individual developing symptoms.

7. Does LLNL perform deep or enhanced cleaning/sanitizing of work areas following the report of an employee that tests positive for COVID-19?

LLNL utilizes a multi-pronged approach to maintaining the cleanliness of the work environment on a daily basis in an effort to stay ahead of the report of an ill individual or an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. LLNL custodial staff routinely clean/disinfect all work areas daily, paying particular attention to disinfection of high-touch surfaces. In addition, employees are provided cleaning/disinfecting supplies to use daily in their work areas at both the start and end of the work shift, as well as routinely throughout their shift. Finally, following the report of an illness in an employee that has been onsite, additional targeted disinfection of areas of concern may be conducted on a case-by-case basis following a risk assessment performed by the Institutional Biosafety Officer.

If these questions and answers do not adequately address your company’s questionnaire or concerns, please submit a copy of the questionnaire to the LLNL COVID-19 Visitor email hotline (covid19-visitor@llnl.gov). Please allow 2-5 business days for a response.

This document was prepared by the LLNL Institutional Biosafety Officer. Questions, comments or concerns about the content of this document should be directed to Carolyn Hall (hall94@llnl.gov).