Engineering Training Protocol For Phase 2 Research Operations

The Samueli School of Engineering has set the following safety practices and policies that must be instituted for ***all research training within 6 ft of persons or in a space less than 250 sq ft during Phase 2*** to minimize transmission of coronavirus in droplets and aerosols. This is in addition to the Engineering Laboratory Protocols.

Training should be provided only on a very limited basis to selected UCI employees. No training of non-UCI users is allowed at this time without special approval from the Samueli School of Engineering. Priority of who should be trained is determined by the PI.

Requirements:

1. Training within a 6 ft distance must happen ***between 2 people only.*** Group trainings are not allowed; hold remote sessions on the computer when the option is viable.
2. Trainers and trainees ***must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from each other whenever possible*** and take all reasonable actions to avoid coming into closer proximity during the training session. When this is impossible, the time spent in closer proximity should be kept to the minimum required to carry out high-quality training.
3. All participants ***must wear gloves, goggles and face coverings/masks at all times.*** Each person must have their own designated goggles and face covering/mask. Face shields are optional or can be used instead of goggles.
4. The ***trainer is designated to sanitize the space*** before and after each training session and every hour during the training session, during breaks, or as often as possible. Follow EH&S Cleaning Guidance.
5. Participation in training puts people in close contact (≥15 minutes & ≤6 feet) and ***will require stricter isolation protocols*** if the trainer or trainee becomes a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case.
6. ***No persons are required to participate in these training sessions*** if they are not comfortable doing so. Participation in training is completely voluntary.

Best Practices:

1. Pair up trainers and trainees and keep the pairing consistent over the course of training. Limit the number of cross trainers/trainees so that if illness occurs in one group, it is less likely to spread to other lab workers and impact lab operations.
2. Hold training sessions in larger rooms or rooms where air flow can be increased (e.g., hoods, open windows).
3. Have the space vacated for at least 1 hour before and after a training session. Schedule frequent breaks, ~15 min in duration, during the training session.
4. Limit the number of other people in the room during the training session. Total room occupancy should follow safe distancing practices for the space.
5. For trainers that will be training multiple people, N95 masks are available via EH&S with a custom fitting. For this option, PIs need to contact Dr. Lori Greene, legreene@uci.edu to coordinate for their lab.