

As part of its re-opening strategy in June 2020, the MBL required all Principal Investigators (Resident and Whitman Scientists) to submit a Research Resumption Plan for to open their laboratories and conduct research under Phase 1 Research Guidelines. This plan required PIs to adhere to Commonwealth of Massachusetts safety guidelines for research spaces including reduced occupancy in labs, mandatory mask wearing in all research spaces, increased cleaning protocols and lab occupancy/cleaning logs to be maintained and reviewed daily, among others. These actions have been effective in creating an environment that mitigates the risk of COVID-19 transmission, ultimately enabling the MBL to re-open labs and welcome a limited number of visiting researchers to campus.

The MBL is now in its Phase 2 of research activities, in compliance with the Massachusetts “Sector Specific Workplace Safety Standards for Laboratories to Address COVID-19.” The MBL and the Woods Hole community are not “back to normal.” All Whitman Scientists, Whitman Fellows, Grass Fellows, and MBL Fellows planning to conduct research at the MBL must follow the **2021 Non-Resident Research Guidelines**, which address MBL and Commonwealth of Massachusetts health and safety concerns and physical distancing requirements. These guidelines reflect the past year of experience conducting research at the MBL and the growing understanding of best practices for mitigating the risk of spreading of SARS-CoV-2 in environments where proper hygiene, social distancing, and mask wearing protocols are strictly followed.

Each registrant is responsible for downloading and reading the following documents:

- [2021 Non-Resident Research Guidelines](#)
- [MBL COVID-19 Workplace Safety Policy](#)
- [Guidance for Using Masks in MBL Work Areas](#)
- [MBL Mandatory Daily Health Screening Form](#)

In addition, all principal investigators must complete a **2021 Non-Resident Research Plan**, which commits the Investigator to monitor, evaluate, and govern safe behaviors in their lab. The research plan must be completed and submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of research. All research plans will be reviewed and evaluated by the Director of Research, with final approval from the Director of MBL. Research space cannot be occupied without an approved research plan.

- [2021 Non-Resident Research Plan](#)