



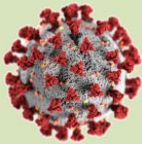
# UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

The Dartmouth College laboratory safety newsletter

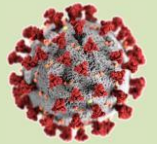
Specific questions? Ask EHS: 603-646-1762 or [ehs@dartmouth.edu](mailto:ehs@dartmouth.edu)

## Lab Safety During the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Shutdown

During the shutdown, you may ONLY be in labs if you were granted a research extension, and only for what is necessary within its limits. The PI is responsible for coordinating who can be in the lab and when, and everyone should know the schedule.



### “Social distancing”? What about “never work alone”?



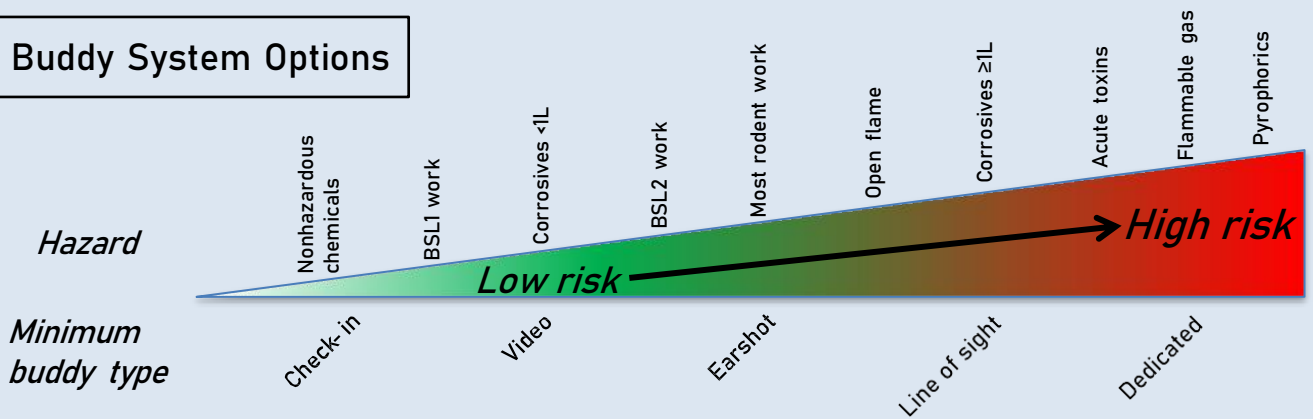
Social distancing is important – BUT – so is the buddy system!

Even for low-risk labs or activities, minimal people around during the shutdown means if something goes wrong while you are alone, *it could take a long time for someone to find you.*

*Emergencies may be unrelated to hazardous material use*, for example a medical event or a simple slip and fall.

You can use variations on the traditional buddy system, but your method of choice must be *based on a risk assessment of your work*, and should be approved by your PI. **Never work totally alone and unmonitored!**

### Buddy System Options



(Only a few possible examples are shown. Locations along the spectrum are for illustrative purposes only and will vary by lab and activity.)

- **Check-in buddy** (least protective): text a designated lab mate when you arrive, at planned intervals, and when you leave.
- **Video buddy**: open call on Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, etc., where lab mate actively monitors and can see you.
- **Earshot buddy**: lab mate who may be around the corner but is close enough to hear and looks in periodically.
- **Line of sight buddy**: lab mate who is present and can see you at all times, either in the same room or through a window.
- **Dedicated buddy** (most protective): lab mate who is in the lab, wearing appropriate PPE and ready to help immediately in case of emergency. Sometimes this is the only acceptable option – you can’t smother flames on someone over the phone!

Also consider downloading **LiveSafe**, “an app that provides a quick and convenient way for you to watch out for your friends, or to quickly report a safety concern to Safety and Security. The app provides access to campus resource information, easy Emergency 911 and Dartmouth Safety and Security communications, anonymous tip reporting and more.”



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