

Bigelow Laboratory Communicable Illness Policy

Updated 18 March 2024

Employees who come to work sick put themselves and others at risk of sickness. Employees should stay home if they are sick. The Laboratory provides sick leave pay for this purpose.

Employees should notify human resources in the case of serious illness. Human resources will provide the employee with information on the resources available to support them during their illness.

Each Senior Research Scientist should identify any essential functions in their laboratories and establish procedures to accomplish those functions should one or more of their people be absent from work due to an illness.

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that has had a uniquely large impact on health, along with a coordinated health response. Following the guidance of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Bigelow recommends staying up to date with vaccination for all respiratory viruses, including COVID-19, flu, and RSV, if eligible.

Employees should always practice good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often, and frequently cleaning touched surfaces. Bigelow continues to provide sanitizer stations throughout the facility.

When an employee gets sick with a respiratory virus, they should stay at home until symptoms have been improving and any fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours. Upon return to work following a respiratory viral illness, employees should wear a mask for 5 days to curb the possible spread of disease.