



June 26, 2020

This weekly research re-engagement update is being sent to U-M faculty and staff with active sponsored research, including laboratory, studio, human and field research. Please share this information with your colleagues.

Dear faculty and research staff,

The University of Michigan launched its strategic process to safely re-engage research and scholarship five weeks ago. Through your tremendous support and ability to adapt quickly to new guidelines amid this pandemic, our researchers have resumed activity in nearly every research building on the Ann Arbor campus, and are now submitting materials for human research. Research activity on the Dearborn and Flint campuses also is ramping up.

Today marks the end of our laboratory research re-engagement waves, and more than 95 percent of our lab research workforce is now re-engaged. Moving forward, research labs will continue to operate at about 30 percent density on any given shift to protect employees' health and safety. Many units have implemented multiple shifts to allow more researchers to resume activity and still remain compliant with the university's de-densification guidelines and safe public health practices.

Please refer to the important research re-engagement items below. If you have any further questions about your research and scholarship, please work directly with your research associate deans.

Human Research

- The human research activation process has begun in earnest with study teams in Tiers 0 and 1 now able to submit their materials. The order and timing of these tiers is based on the proposed research benefits to individual participants, balanced with the risk for COVID-19 community transmission. Please refer to the links below for more information about our activation tiers.
- More than 200 human research activation checklists are currently under review.
- Studies that require teams to return to U-M buildings must engage with their unit leadership to discuss issues related to building access and re-engagement procedures.

- As with resuming other types of work, human research procedures must be adapted to minimize risk of COVID-19 transmission. This includes developing plans for social distancing, requiring face coverings for researchers and study participants, and implementing a health screen for participants prior to in-person interactions. Researchers will need to prescreen participants for COVID-19 risk, and also promote increased hand hygiene and equipment disinfection practices.
- Human research that does not require in-person interaction, such as analysis, computational or dry laboratory office work, will remain remote, consistent with state regulations.
- Resources for human research activation:
 - [Human research activation plan](#)
 - [Human research activation checklist](#)
 - [Human research activation tier flowchart](#)
 - [Human research activation tier framework](#)
 - [Human research training module](#)
 - [Research re-engagement webpage](#) (guiding principles, activation procedures and committees, etc.)
 - [Return-to-work training attestation for human research](#)

Laboratory Research Ramp Up and Public Health Metrics

- Research employees entering buildings: ~3,900/weekday
- EHS laboratory space visits (May 21-June 24): 5,944
- Supply of masks, sanitizer and disinfectant: Sufficient
- Researchers to date who tested **negative** for COVID-19: 2
- Researchers who tested **positive** for COVID-19 (June 18-24): 0
 - Please refer to the EHS website for communication between supervisors and coworkers in regard to symptomatic employees.
 - [COVID-19 Exposure and Testing Guidance for Staff and Supervisors](#)
 - These guidelines note best practices, including while waiting for test results of an employee that is symptomatic, it is recommended to **close off, if possible, the individual's personal workspace until the test result is received**. Intradepartmental communication should **not** occur until a test result is received due to public health confidentiality requirements. Employees in the surrounding area should continue to work while wearing face coverings, social distancing from each other and continuing to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Researchers approved by their unit leadership to resume on-campus activity must continue to practice social distancing and wear face coverings. All research and scholarship that can be done remotely should continue in that manner.

We must continue to maintain best practice guidelines for research so that we can continue serving the world through research and scholarship, and also do our part to protect researchers and our local communities.

Stay safe and healthy, and research onward.

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