



June 5, 2020

This weekly research re-engagement update was sent today to U-M faculty and staff with active sponsored research. Please share this information with your colleagues.

Dear faculty and research staff,

I am pleased to announce that our pilot wave to safely re-engage research and scholarship proceeded smoothly, with more than 700 researchers returning to the Ann Arbor campus in recent weeks to ramp up activity.

As President Mark Schlissel noted in his June 2 universitywide email: “This is the result of extraordinary collaboration among many units, including our schools and colleges, Facilities and Operations, our Division of Public Safety and Security, and Information and Technology Services.”

We now turn our attention to the second, more expansive wave of research re-engagement, which began June 4. The second wave includes an additional 3,000 researchers from 12 units across 45 buildings.

It is important to remember that only about 30 percent of the workforce in these buildings can resume research and scholarship at this time, and all work that can be done remotely should continue in that manner. And in order to protect the health and safety of our university community, researchers returning to work must continue to practice social distancing and wear face coverings.

Transparency is critical to our success, and so we included some important details below about the university’s research re-engagement efforts. The information below is being shared with the U-M research community on a weekly basis, and if you have any further questions regarding your research and scholarship, please work directly with your research associate deans.

I also encourage you to view a [recording of our June 2 virtual town hall](#), where research leadership answered questions and provided guidance on research re-engagement efforts amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pilot Wave

- Began May 21 and concluded June 4 with few logistical issues.
- *Participating Units:* Architecture and Urban Planning; Engineering; Life Sciences Institute; LSA; Medical School; Pharmacy
- *Average daily number of approved research employees entering pilot wave buildings (May 28-June 3):* 614

- *Average daily wait time for approved research employees entering pilot wave buildings:* 1 minute or less
- *EHS laboratory space visits (May 21-June 3):* 745
- *Researchers tested positive for COVID-19 (May 28-June 3):* 0
- *Supply of masks, sanitizer and disinfectant:* Sufficient
- *Social distancing:* 99.9% of researchers practicing social distancing (as observed by safety staff)
- *Face coverings:* 100% of researchers wearing face coverings (as observed by safety staff)
- *Areas for improvement:* State regulations and good public health practice requires disinfection of your workstation and maintenance of cleaning logs for shared equipment. These actions are auditable and can decrease virus transmission. We encourage attention to both the practice of disinfecting workspaces and equipment, as well as logging this type of activity.

Second Wave

- Preparations for newly approved buildings and workspaces began June 4, with research scheduled to resume June 8. An additional 3,000 researchers are approved to safely return to research lab work.
- Buildings participating in the pilot wave may begin adding more shifts during the second wave to increase research capacity.
- *Participating Units:* Architecture and Urban Planning; Art and Design; Dentistry; Engineering; Kinesiology; Life Sciences Institute; LSA; Medical School; Music, Theatre & Dance; Pharmacy; Public Health; School for Environment and Sustainability.
- *Participating Buildings:* *The University Record* published a [complete list of buildings participating in the second wave](#). Please work with your research associate deans to determine whether your lab can participate at this time.
- *Training module:* The university's [research re-engagement training module](#) must be completed before approved research employees may return to work.
- *Daily health screen:* The university's [online health screen](#) can be completed by approved research employees before entering buildings to expedite their intake process.
- *Visiting scholars:* Visiting scholars cannot participate in laboratory research at this time. This includes both domestic and international visiting scholars, according to the [Governor's executive order](#) issued May 15. [U-M Human Resources](#) created a PDF that includes more information about visiting scholars.

Field Research: Limited in-state field research can be approved with appropriate safety plans in place. Out-of-state travel remains restricted at this time. Please refer to our [field research re-engagement guidelines](#) for more information.

Human Subjects Research: Current restrictions on in-person human subjects research remain in place. Studies with investigational treatments, such as drugs and devices or stabilization of high-risk psychological conditions, that provide the potential for direct therapeutic benefit that were previously approved should continue. A university committee is developing a risk stratification and timeline for safely resuming this type of work.

Important Resources

- [Laboratory and Studio Research Reactivation Plan](#)
- [Research Re-engagement Webpage](#)

- [Workplace Contact Tracing Protocol](#)

The process for re-engaging research and scholarship is a gradual one, and so I appreciate the ongoing support and expertise of our research community. That includes our international colleagues who play such a critical role in strengthening the U-M research enterprise. Together, we can address important challenges such as COVID-19 and continue our contributions to the public good.

Stay safe and healthy.

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