



August 20, 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,

Please review the items below for important information regarding the University of Michigan's strategic plans to safely continue research and scholarship across its three campuses. More information is available on the [U-M research re-engagement webpage](#). Note all work that can occur remotely will continue to be done in that manner, including office and dry laboratory work.

#### **COVID-related research metrics**

- Researchers to date who displayed symptoms and tested **positive** for COVID-19: 5 (4 Ann Arbor, 1 Dearborn)
  - 0 researchers tested positive for COVID-19 this past week.
- Researchers to date who displayed symptoms (or were tested as part of contact tracing) and tested **negative** for COVID-19: 15

#### **Undergraduate research activity**

As we approach the fall academic semester and proceed with the safe and orderly return of students, U-M will maintain its current policy as it relates to limiting undergraduates engaged in in-person research.

Only senior students (individuals entering their senior year of coursework) who already have experience in the same laboratory can resume in-person research and scholarship at this time. Undergraduates at any year of study are welcome and encouraged to join research teams if their work can be done **remotely**.

Research leadership will reassess this policy in early October after students have fully re-engaged on campus to determine whether more undergraduates can safely resume in-person laboratory, studio, human and field research and scholarship.

Please remember that undergraduate students:

- Are subject to the same building capacity limits as other researchers
- Must participate in the same symptom monitoring as other researchers
- Must complete the EHS return-to-research training module
- May not be left alone in research spaces
- May not be compelled by principal investigators to resume research and scholarship

### **New COVID-19 screening tool**

U-M will launch its accessible, mobile-friendly website [ResponsiBLUE](#) on August 24 to help keep university community members healthy and reduce the spread of COVID-19. A downloadable mobile app will be available soon.

All faculty, staff and students will be expected to use [responsiblue.umich.edu](https://responsiblue.umich.edu) at the beginning of the day, regardless of whether they are present in-person, or working or studying from home. Those working in U-M buildings or facilities are required to use ResponsiBLUE to meet state regulatory requirements for health screening.

ResponsiBLUE is the next generation of Healthscreen, a web tool used widely by researchers in recent months. The ResponsiBLUE questions will be similar to those featured in Healthscreen, with some minor updates to symptom reporting as we learn more about the virus. And because of the shifting epidemiology of the virus, the international travel question will be removed.

More information about ResponsiBLUE is available on the [ITS website](#).

### **Human research updates**

- Studies approved for activation under **Tier 0, Tier 1 and Tier 2** can safely resume in-person human research.
- 1,198 human research activation protocols have already been approved. 35 protocols are in the review process, and PIs should soon receive updates regarding their submissions.
- 2,741 individuals have completed the training module via My LINC.

### **AAALAC site visit**

Site visitors from AAALAC International will be on the Ann Arbor campus next week as part of a mandatory reaccreditation visit to assess the U-M Animal Care and Use Program. AAALAC representatives will likely visit all animal housing locations on campus, along with many laboratories. Please visit the [AAALAC webpage](#) (a U-M username and password is required) for more information and to download the [digital preparation toolkit](#). Questions about the site visit can be directed to [acuoffice@umich.edu](mailto:acuoffice@umich.edu).

Stay safe and healthy, and research onward.

Rebecca Cunningham, M.D.

Vice President for Research

William G. Barsan Collegiate Professor of Emergency Medicine