



August 7, 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 ramp up research and scholarship across its three campuses. More information is available on the [U-M research re-engagement webpage](#).

COVID-19 cases

One researcher from the Ann Arbor campus tested positive this week for COVID-19. Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) is managing contact tracing to protect the health and safety of our research community, and at this time, there is no indication of any virus transmission between laboratory or research coworkers. As COVID-19 cases continue to increase nationwide, our research community must remain vigilant, wear face coverings, practice social distancing and implement disinfection protocols to help reduce transmission.

Updated entry procedures

Since the university began ramping up research and scholarship on May 21, greeters were stationed at the entrance of research buildings to verify approved employees, ensure those employees completed their daily health screen and administer temperature checks.

As research buildings transition to multipurpose use in preparation for the fall academic semester, beginning the week of August 10, buildings are no longer required to have a greeter at entry points. Further information will be forthcoming from your school leadership as to the timing of this change and the expected entry procedures for your unit.

Regardless of whether greeters are present in the coming weeks, individuals must still complete the [daily health screening survey](#), which includes self-monitoring of temperature before entering U-M buildings. Please note that all other COVID-related research laboratory procedures, density

requirements, social distancing, face coverings and disinfection procedures remain in place, and building access remains limited to those with approved Mcard access.

Research re-engagement metrics

- Researchers to date who displayed symptoms and tested **positive** for COVID-19: 4
- Researchers to date who displayed symptoms (or were tested as part of contact tracing) and tested **negative** for COVID-19: 15
- Research employees entering buildings (July 29-August 5): 4,683/weekday
- Supply of masks, sanitizer and disinfectant: Nonclinical PPE remains sufficient. Please refer to [Procurement Services' COVID-19 Supplies webpage](#) for more information.

Contact tracing protocols

- Symptomatic employees should contact Occupational Health Services (OHS) at 734-764-8021.
- If the employee is referred for COVID-19 testing and tests positive, those results are communicated to the employee. OHS will then provide followup instructions and return-to-work guidance.
- The employee also is provided with status information to give her or his supervisor and a notification process for other employees.
 - Medical confidentiality and privacy will be maintained. Contacts will only be told they have been exposed to a positive case, but the identity of that case will not be directly revealed.
- Symptomatic employees who are tested and diagnosed at a location other than one designated by OHS must report their test type and diagnosis to OHS.
- They also must report their expected absence to their supervisor and should not return to their workplace until cleared by OHS to do so.
- Positive test results are shared with EHS, the Washtenaw County Health Department and Risk Management.
- Positive tests are tracked daily by Risk Management and provided to the Office of the Vice President for Research for reporting in aggregate. Confidentiality is maintained and this information will not be made part of the employees' central personnel record.
- Please refer to the [U-M Workplace Contact Tracing Protocol](#) for further guidance on how to respond in the workplace when an employee is awaiting test results or tests positive for COVID-19.
- Based on the university's return-to-work attestation, employees are required to cooperate with information and prompt communication necessary to complete contact tracing.

Human research updates

- Procedures and protocols featured on the [U-M research re-engagement webpage](#) do not supersede any more stringent safety requirements applicable to a given research project, which must continue to be followed at all times.

- Studies approved for activation under **Tier 0, Tier 1 and Tier 2** can safely resume in-person human research. We will continue to monitor virus transmission rates, and how those rates impact our status under the [MI Safe Start Plan](#), to determine when studies approved for activation under **Tier 3** can safely resume. If the state reverts back to Phase 3, U-M will only allow **Tier 0** and **Tier 1** studies to continue.
- 917 human research activation protocols have already been approved. 71 protocols are in the review process, and PIs should soon receive updates regarding their submissions.
- 2,528 individuals have completed the training module via My LINC.

Animal research updates

Site visitors from AAALAC International will assess the U-M Animal Care and Use Program, with on-campus tours August 25-28 as part of a mandatory reaccreditation visit. AAALAC representatives will likely visit all animal housing locations on campus, along with many laboratories. Please visit the [AAALAC webpage on the ACU Program website](#) (a U-M username and password is required) for more information about the upcoming site visit. Questions about the site visit can be directed to acuoffice@umich.edu.

Stay safe and healthy, and research onward.

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