



May 29, 2020

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

Dear faculty and research staff,

We have successfully completed the first week of our pilot wave to safely re-engage research and scholarship across the University of Michigan, in accordance with state regulations. Faculty and staff from six units on the Ann Arbor campus are participating in the pilot wave, as research activity began ramping up in eight buildings on May 21.

Research leadership from across U-M will continue to assess our pilot wave, and we will examine important safety metrics to determine the best path forward. The pilot wave is expected to conclude on June 4, and our plan is to then launch a second, more expansive wave of research re-engagement involving units that have not yet ramped up activity.

Transparency is critical to our success, and so we included some important details below about the university's research re-engagement efforts. This information below will be 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 your participation in our upcoming virtual town hall on June 2 where research leadership will answer questions and provide guidance on research re-engagement efforts amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about the virtual town hall in [The University Record](#).

Pilot Wave

- Began May 21 and has been smooth with few logistical issues.
- *Participating Units:* Architecture and Urban Planning; Engineering; Life Sciences Institute; LSA; Medical School; Pharmacy
- *Participating Buildings:* Art and Architecture Building; Biomedical Science Research Building; Chemistry Building; Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Building;

G.G. Brown Building; Life Sciences Institute Building; North University Building; Pharmacy Building (~30% of the workforce re-engaged in these buildings)

Performance Metrics

- *Average daily number of approved research employees entering pilot wave buildings (May 21, 22, 26 and 27): 667*
- *Average daily wait time for approved research employees entering pilot wave buildings: 3 minutes or less*
- Early observations by safety staff show that our researchers are practicing social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Supply Chain

- Sufficient supply of masks and disinfectant for the pilot wave. No current issues.

Illness

- *Researchers tested positive for COVID-19 (May 21-28): 0*

Second Wave

Preparations for buildings and workspaces are expected to begin June 4, with research scheduled to resume June 8.

- 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:* Please work with your research associate deans to determine whether your lab is participating in the second wave of research re-engagement. Additional entry points will open for research labs in the following locations:
 - Randall/West Hall, BSB, East Hall, MSRB, NCRC, GGB, CSRB, IoE, LBME, Eisenhower, Dental, CCRB, Stamps Studio, SPH, Dana, Moore
- *Training module:* The university's new [research re-engagement training module](#) must be completed before approved research employees may return to work.
- *Daily health screen:* The university's new [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, according to the [Governor's current executive order](#) issued May 15. [U-M Human Resources](#) created a PDF that includes more information about visiting scholars.

Field Research: Limited field research conducted in the State of Michigan can be approved with appropriate safety plans in place. Please refer to our [field research re-engagement](#)

[guidelines](#) for more information. Out-of-state travel remains restricted, with the possibility for approval in only rare circumstances.

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 has begun meeting to develop a timeline for safely resuming human subjects research.

Important Resources

- [Laboratory and Studio Research Reactivation Plan](#)
- [Research Re-engagement Webpage](#)
- [Workplace Contact Tracing Protocol](#)

Rebecca Cunningham, M.D.

Vice President for Research

William G. Barsan Collegiate Professor of Emergency Medicine