



June 12, 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,

This week, more than 3,000 researchers across a wide variety of disciplines have returned to the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses as part of our second wave to safely re-engage research and scholarship.

The second wave, which began June 4 and concludes today, involves researchers from 12 units across 45 buildings on the Ann Arbor campus. Four buildings on the Dearborn campus also reopened this week for research and scholarship. The university will transition on Monday to its third wave of research re-engagement.

Please note the Governor issued a new Executive Order on June 5, which continues our current regulations on laboratory research, but does allow visiting scholars who were already engaged as part of an existing lab team to rejoin the lab. I also encourage you to review the [recent open letter from U-M leadership in support of Chinese students, scholars and faculty](#).

Researchers resuming on-campus activity must continue to practice social distancing and wear face coverings, and all work that can be done remotely should continue in that manner.

The information below provides a snapshot of the university's research re-engagement efforts across lab, field and human research. If you have any further questions about your research and scholarship, please work directly with your research associate deans.

Human Research

- The UMOR Human Research Ramp-up Committee will soon release details for a phased approach to human research re-engagement. This includes the COVID-19 risk stratification process that will be implemented, guidelines for research teams to prepare their research ramp-up checklist application, and the training module for researchers to complete. Until these are complete, current restrictions on in-person human 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.

Animal Research

- The Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM) can now support the acquisition of new animals for research and educational purposes. Effective June 15, breeding colonies may be re-established to produce animals for future projects, and requests will be accepted for the importation of animals from collaborating institutions (please note that requests for exporting animals should be discussed in advance with the [Rodent Health Surveillance Team](#)). Animal orders will be accepted for delivery, beginning June 29. Additional guidance and FAQs related to the management of animal-related projects during the research re-engagement process can be found on the [Animal Care & Use Program website](#).

Field Research: Expansion to domestic U.S. sites with approved safety plans

- Field research resumption is being expanded and principal investigators can now submit safety plans for domestic field research that is out of state, as well as in-state field research with appropriate safety plans in place that account for local health guidance. Please refer to our [field research re-engagement guidelines](#) for more information.

Second Wave of Lab Research

- Began June 4 and concludes today.
- *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](#).
- Average daily number of approved research employees entering buildings (June 4-10): 1,130
- Average daily wait time for approved research employees entering buildings: 1 minute
- EHS laboratory space visits (May 21-June 10): 1,963
- Researchers who tested positive for COVID-19 (June 4-10): 0
 - Please refer to the [Workplace Contact Tracing Protocol](#) for guidance on how to respond when an employee tests positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Supply of masks, sanitizer and disinfectant: Sufficient
- Social distancing: 98% of researchers practicing social distancing (as observed by safety staff)
- Face coverings: 95% of researchers wearing face coverings (as observed by safety staff)
- Disinfectant logs have substantially improved this week.

Third Wave of Lab Research

- Begins June 15 and is scheduled to conclude June 19.
- *Participating Units*: Same as the second wave.
- *Additional Participating Buildings*: The 18 additional buildings participating in the Third Wave are now reflected in [The University Record listing](#).
- 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. Note that travel out of state has been removed as a screening question.

COVID-19 Research Prioritization Committee

- The universitywide committee that reviews and prioritizes COVID-related research projects will sunset today. If you are proposing lab work, you can resume activity when your building is authorized to reopen. If the project you are proposing requires review by the IRB, IACUC and/or IBC, please submit your protocol/registration directly to the appropriate compliance committee, and they will follow standard protocols and procedures. If you are proposing a COVID-related clinical trial, refer to the [COVID-19 Clinical Trial Feasibility Review webpage](#) for more information. If you have any further questions, contact research.covid19@umich.edu.

Important Resources

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

Stay safe and healthy.

Rebecca Cunningham, M.D.

Vice President for Research

William G. Barsan Collegiate Professor of Emergency Medicine