



July 30, 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**

- Occupational Health Services was notified this week about three U-M researchers who recently tested positive for COVID-19. To protect the health and safety of our research community, contact tracing of those who tested positive has been coordinated by Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) per university protocols. To date, there is no indication of any virus transmission between laboratory or research coworkers at work, which highlights the importance and success of social distancing, face coverings and disinfection protocols. With increased cases being acquired in the community, the importance of minimizing transmission outside of work is just as important as the measures taken during work.

#### **Research re-engagement metrics**

- Researchers to date who displayed symptoms and tested **positive** for COVID-19: 3
- Researchers to date who displayed symptoms (or were tested as part of contact tracing) and tested **negative** for COVID-19: 7
- Research employees entering buildings (July 23-28): 4,676/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 OHS at **734-764-8021**.

- If the employee is referred for COVID-19 testing and tests positive, those results are communicated to the employee and OHS then provides 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. Sensitivity to individual situations will be maintained.
- 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 also 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.

#### **Human research updates**

- Studies approved for activation under **Tier 0, Tier 1 and Tier 2** can safely resume in-person human research at this time. 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.
- 814 human research activation protocols have already been approved. 68 protocols are in the review process, and PIs should soon receive updates regarding their submissions.
- 2,276 individuals have completed the module via My LINC.

#### **Access to library resources**

- The U-M Library provides our university community with important resources to advance research and scholarship. Many library services and materials are available remotely, so please refer to the [U-M Library website](#) for more information regarding the status of its spaces, resources and services.

Stay safe and healthy, and research onward.

Rebecca Cunningham, M.D.

Vice President for Research

William G. Barsan Collegiate Professor of Emergency Medicine