



September 3, 2020

*This weekly research update is being sent to all active investigators, including those engaged in human research, and research administrators across the three University of Michigan campuses. 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](#).

### **Protecting the health and safety of the U-M community**

- **COVID-19 sampling and tracking program for faculty, staff and students**

U-M will begin testing students, faculty and staff for the virus that causes COVID-19 next week, ramping up to 3,000 individuals weekly by the end of the month as part of a free, opt-in, voluntary surveillance testing program on the Ann Arbor campus. Registration for the U-M COVID-19 Community Sampling and Tracking program is open to students living on or off campus, as well as faculty and staff, including those from Michigan Medicine, who work in-person on the Ann Arbor campus. [Learn more](#) about this program.

- **U-M researchers look for coronavirus in campus environment**

Researchers at the U-M School of Public Health are studying samples from sewers, wiping down classrooms and buses, and taking measurements of air to determine how much coronavirus is present in the environment on campus. They are then exploring whether that has any relationship to COVID-19 infection rates within the university community. [Learn more](#) about their research and how it can inform and aid our community in staying safe.

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

- Researchers to date who have displayed symptoms and tested **positive** for COVID-19: 7 (6 Ann Arbor, 1 Dearborn)
  - Two researchers 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 fluctuate nationwide, our research community must remain vigilant, wear face coverings, and practice social distancing both in and out of the workplace to help reduce transmission.

- Researchers to date who have displayed symptoms (or were tested as part of contact tracing) and tested **negative** for COVID-19: 16
- If you see or feel someone is not following appropriate guidance for maintaining a research space, we encourage constructive feedback between personnel. You can also report the issue anonymously through the [U-M Compliance Hotline](#).

### **Human research updates**

- Studies approved for activation under **Tier 0, Tier 1 and Tier 2** can safely resume in-person human research.
- 1,294 human research activation protocols have already been approved. 42 protocols are in the review process, and PIs should soon receive updates regarding their submissions.

### **U-M to conduct clinical trial to test AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine**

Michigan Medicine is partnering with the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca for a Phase 3 clinical trial to test a vaccine against COVID-19. The AZD1222 COVID-19 VACCINE Study will research an investigational vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19, looking at how well the investigational vaccine works and how safe it is. U-M, which will begin recruiting hundreds of participants for the trial immediately, is one of several U.S. sites supporting the AstraZeneca trial. For more information about the study, visit [uofmhealth.org/covid19-vaccine](https://uofmhealth.org/covid19-vaccine) or email [AZVaccineTrial@med.umich.edu](mailto:AZVaccineTrial@med.umich.edu).

### **AAALAC completes weeklong re-accreditation visit at U-M**

Site visitors from AAALAC International completed the university's triennial re-accreditation visit on August 28. The AAALAC team noted the U-M research community's tremendous level of engagement in the re-accreditation process, strong commitment to promoting a culture of shared responsibility for safety and compliance, and overall enthusiasm for their research and the institution. This positive feedback is truly a testament to the expertise, support and dedication of every member of the U-M animal care and use community that participated in, and helped to facilitate, this important site visit. Official notification about the university's accreditation status will be shared after the AAALAC Council meets this fall.

### **Other important resources**

The research generated across our three campuses continues to play a critical role as we explore solutions to this pandemic. For more information about some of the [COVID-related research projects led by U-M](#), I encourage you to listen to the Michigan Minds podcast series.

There also have been extensive efforts to plan for the fall academic semester – from developing engaging virtual science courses, to reimagining performance spaces, to recognizing the emotional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Hear directly from U-M leadership](#) and many of your deans about the planning efforts around the fall academic semester.

Stay safe and healthy, and research onward.

Rebecca Cunningham, M.D.

Vice President for Research

William G. Barsan Collegiate Professor of Emergency Medicine