

Coronavirus and Research

Announcement Dates

8/8/2020

7/6/2020

6/1/2020

5/13/2020

8 August 2020

Dear UC Research Community-

I first want to apologize for not communicating sooner regarding research density plans. Given the ever-changing local landscape and the considerations being made with the start of classes, we will continue along at our current research density guidelines for at least another month.

With the start of the fall academic semester, if you need to make adjustments to your schedule or list of researchers, you should communicate those through your unit leadership up to the college level.

I sincerely appreciate how diligent our research community has been since our Research Return. Your prioritization of the health and safety of our research community is exemplary. As campus density increases with the return of students, I want to remind everyone to continue to prioritize a safe research environment. More information and updates on UC's Return to Campus plans are available [on-line](#).

Our intention remains to continue our on-campus research activities so long as conditions are safe and our researchers' behaviors are aligned with campus guidance. If there is anything the Office of Research can do to assist you during these times, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for your patience and for your outstanding research, scholarship and creative activities. You exemplify why UC is a Carnegie R1 institution.

Take care,
Pat

Dr. Patrick A Limbach
Vice President for Research

6 July 2020

Dear UC Research Community-

Now that our researchers have been back since June 1st, I wanted to take a moment to provide everyone a quick update on UC's plans regarding research and researcher density. As noted in our original planning documents, our initial plans were to allow up to 50% research density through the end of June with that level being maintained until further notice.

Given the current state of COVID-19 in the region, the addition of administrative staff to campus as part of Phase Two of the [multiphase](#) return to campus, and the general success of all of you at maintaining a safe and healthy research environment during Phase One of the return, at this

time there will be no changes to research density through the month of July. Researchers should continue to follow schedules that accommodate up to 50% of the research team, which were submitted earlier.

It is the intention of the senior leadership team to review the situation before the end of July and provide an additional update for research activities in August and beyond.

I recognize that the limited density does have an impact on everyone's productivity and also is a challenge for many of our students and trainees. Those considerations are key, but we must maintain our vigilance and commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for all of our faculty, staff and students engaged in our research enterprise.

Please remember that the most up-to-date guidance on research return can be found below.

I continue to appreciate your patience and understanding as we manage this ever changing and challenging environment.

Take care,

Pat

Vice President for Research

Research Return - June 1

Colleagues,

Although there is much occurring that speaks to the significant challenges facing all of us and our nation, from the pandemic to the horrible news last week involving George Floyd and the resulting protests that are still on-going, I wanted to take this moment to thank all of you who were engaged in Phase 1 of our Return to Campus plan.

Today marks the return of research activities to both on- and off-campus locations. While this return is measured and remains limited to those activities that require access to facilities, equipment and/or resources that are unavailable in a remote work environment, it is a positive and necessary step for our world-class faculty and researchers to fulfill our mission as a Carnegie R1 institution. As of this morning, we have over 1100 faculty, staff and students who have been approved to return.

We did not reach this stage without the hard work and dedication of all involved in our research enterprise. Beyond each of you, there were a number of individuals at the unit-, college-, and administrative-levels who spent a significant amount of time developing processes, communicating information and reviewing/approving the Health, Safety and Scheduling plans. If you are one of those who is returning to research, please take a moment to join me in thanking all of those who were engaged in making this possible for you. I know that many of our college groups along with those in the Office of Research spent this past weekend working to get as many plans approved as possible. And while you are sharing your thanks, do not forget all those

in a support function – from LAMS through facilities and janitorial services – who have also stepped forward to get us to this point.

I recognize that these past 2+ months spent conducting research remotely have been difficult and disruptive for all of us, and I want to thank you again for your commitment to your research and UC. Please remember as we move into the summer to be vigilant, keeping the health and safety of all involved in our research and creative activities as your top priority.

Take care,
Pat
Vice President for Research

13 May 2020

Dear UC Research Community:

The University of Cincinnati will embark on a phased approach of bringing personnel back to campus. As noted previously, the first phase will involve our research enterprise. The Office of Research has now posted guidance to help our researchers begin planning for this return, which will commence on June 1st.

Today (5/13) at 4 pm, I will review this information and address questions relating to the Return of Research to campus. The details on that WebEx event have been sent separately.

Please note: any and all on-campus activities need to be limited to those you deem necessary for the continuance of your research programs. Remote work should remain the norm. You should await further instructions from your college regarding the process and required documentation necessary to return to on-campus research in June.

I appreciate your patience and understanding as we work towards this next phase. As we are still in a Public Health emergency, I urge each of you to continue to put the health and safety of your research team and the public at the forefront of any planning and preparations for resuming on-campus activities. This phase will require all of us engaged in research, scholarship and creative activities to work and plan collaboratively across our units and the institution.

Take care,
Pat
Vice President for Research