

# Coronavirus and Research

## Announcement Dates

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## **30 April 2020**

### Research Update

Dear UC Research Community:

With the recent announcements from Governor DeWine and Director Acton regarding Ohio's plans to restart the economy, I know that many of you are anxious to hear when UC will allow more extensive on-campus research-related activities.

At present, our guidance and expectation remain focused on a June 1<sup>st</sup> desired target date for resuming research back on campus. To help UC achieve this target date, President Pinto has created a task force to create our Blueprint to Repopulate Campus led by Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police Chief James Whalen. Because bringing researchers back to campus requires more than simply opening the doors to your research spaces, this process cannot occur overnight.

Our process will rely on key principles – the most important of which will be to protect and maintain the health and safety of any researchers on campus. Social distancing measures will be mandatory and everyone should expect that the density of individuals on campus will be greatly reduced for the immediate future.

I certainly would encourage you to now begin considering how to prioritize time on campus that will enhance and improve your productivity within an overall environment where remote work is still expected and preferred. As our university leadership makes progress on preparing our campus for your return and greater clarity is obtained on dates, processes and expectations, I will hold another Research Continuity Town Hall discussion to review and discuss our plans. As appropriate, you may begin hearing from your college leadership on specific steps you can plan now, which will enhance your research impact when on campus activities are again allowable.

Until then, I appreciate your patience and understanding. These times are clearly challenging for all of us, but I am always encouraged by the strength, creativity and resilience of our researchers and UC's research enterprise.

Take care,

Pat

Vice President for Research

**06 April 2020**

With the amended Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director's [STAY AT HOME](#) Order issued April 2, 2020 (Amended Order), only critical research and essential government functions needed to ensure the continuing operation of the university's critical research are permissible on campus through May 1, 2020.

At this time, those allowable research activities have been identified and approved following the information and guidance shown below. **Under no circumstances should trainees, staff or other research personnel be required to work in an environment that is unsafe, including requiring multi-person activities that cannot maintain social distancing guidelines to the greatest extent possible. Undergraduate students, even if acting as a student employee, are not permitted to access university facilities under this guidance.**

Due to these challenging times, please remind your staff and students of the resources available through UC including Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at <https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/caps/resources/student-resources-.html> and the Employee Assistance Program (<https://www.uc.edu/hr/benefits/eap.html> or 800-227-6007).

I recognize these are challenging times for all of us, including many of our researchers who are involved in on-going and important projects. I ask your patience and understanding as we comply with this Order through the remainder of April. I thank all of you for doing your part to flatten the curve and minimize the burden on our first responders and health care workers. We will continue to monitor this situation and will be back in touch when the Order is lifted or we receive additional guidance from the state. Until then, please be safe, continue with your research in a remote environment, and stay in touch with your trainees and staff to ensure they are okay, cared for and supported during this pandemic.

Take care,

Pat  
Vice President for Research

**23 March 2020**

With the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Director's [STAY AT HOME](#) Order issued March 22, 2020 (Order), only critical research and essential government functions needed to ensure the continuing operation of the university's critical research are permissible on campus through April 6, 2020.

UC research activities are categorized as Level III (Standard), Level II (Essential) and Level I (Critical). **While we have been operating in Level II allowing Essential research activities on campus, as of today we must transition to Level I and now allow only *approved* Critical research activities on campus.**

These activities must be limited to:

- COVID-19 research that has the potential to mitigate the spread of the pandemic or is otherwise critical to the COVID-19 response;
- Medical research that if discontinued would endanger the lives of the human subjects participating in the research;
- Activities that require timely and regular attention to maintain essential functions that support critical research, including but not limited to critical research infrastructure and experimental conditions such as animal support, maintaining equipment that requires gas, cryogenic service, monitoring irreplaceable cell lines, maintaining unique or loaned collections, and other substantially similar treatments.

Each college through the dean or dean's designee will establish the process by which critical research will be identified and approved. Researcher's must work through their college if they are seeking approval to continue on-campus activities during the duration of this Order.

The full memorandum and guidance provided to the deans and ADRs can be found [here](#).

Below you will find updated guidance for research activities that accounts for these changes due to the ODH Director's Order.

I recognize these are challenging times for all of us, including many of our researchers who are involved in on-going and important projects. I ask your patience and understanding as we comply with this Order for the next two weeks. We will continue to monitor this situation and will be back in touch when the Order is lifted or we receive additional guidance from the state. Until then, please be safe, continue with your research in a remote environment, and stay in touch with your trainees and staff to ensure they are okay, cared for and supported during this pandemic.

Take care,

Pat Limbach

Vice President for Research

**16 March 2020**

As the coronavirus pandemic situation becomes more urgent, **our research community should prepare for the imminent and significant reduction in on-campus research including preparations to shut down on-campus activities for an extended period of time.**

To assist, the Office of Research [has updated guidance below](#). This guidance will be maintained and modified as circumstances warrant.

**While the University remains open, you may proceed with essential research activities while continuing to enforce social distancing best practices and supporting research actions that can be conducted remotely. However, if you can minimize your research and scholarship that needs to be done on campus - please do.**

Researchers who have unique circumstances or face barriers to reducing on-campus research activities should work with their appropriate Associate Dean for Research or equivalent. The ADRs will communicate these challenges to the appropriate Office of Research contact to obtain required guidance and support when needed.

Take care,

Pat Limbach  
Vice President for Research

**11 March 2020**

University officials are actively monitoring coronavirus and COVID-19 disease related developments. UC has created a dedicated [Coronavirus Public Health page](#) to keep everyone abreast of all that is happening at the University of Cincinnati.

Our UC research community should begin actively preparing for the impact of possible significant disruptions to normal research operations. The Office of Research has prepared some guidance and links to other important information that should help you in developing your plan to manage any disruptions while reducing risk to personnel and preserving research integrity. We will update this information regularly with the latest guidance and recommendations from the Office of Research as well as our external partners and funders.

I would like to urge everyone to use this time to plan and prepare as we are doing here in the Office of Research. As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or suggestions, and I sincerely appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as the university addresses this challenging and ever-changing situation.

Sincerely,

Pat Limbach  
Vice President for Research