

Subject: FW: Research Restart
From: "Crosnoe, Robert" <crosnoe@austin.utexas.edu>
Date: 5/21/20, 1:55 PM
To: "la-all-faculty@utlists.utexas.edu" <la-all-faculty@utlists.utexas.edu>
CC: "Whittington, Erica L" <whittington@austin.utexas.edu>

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today, you received communication from the University about the phased reopening of research (see below). My office will be managing this reopening process for COLA. I know that some of you are ready to go while others are not, and we are here to help all of you.

Basically, with each new research phase defined by significant changes in the public health environment, the University will allow new categories of research to be unpaused. Here is the link to the **Research Restart Phases** as well as to the guiding principles of the research reopening process:

<https://research.utexas.edu/covid-19-research-faq/>

This link also has a very helpful **Research Restart Toolkit** and **Research Restart FAQs**. The information in these portals covers many topics including a breakdown of research phases for each general category of research and what types of research are allowed in each research phase as well as guidance about allowable lab hours and general workforce management, the procurement of PPE, and how to develop a safety and social distancing plan.

FAQs: <https://research.utexas.edu/research-restart-faqs/>

Toolkit: <https://research.utexas.edu/research-restart-toolkit/>

When a new research phase opens, researchers in the eligible categories can apply for approval to reopen. Because of the possibility that requests for approval exceed building density requirements, testing capacity, and other constraints, COLA may have to prioritize some approvals over others. Here is a link to the COLA website that explains this potential prioritization and also offers some guidelines about seeking approval:

<https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/research/grants-contracts/phased-research-activities.php>

The basic categories with which we will be working are:

- Core Facilities Lab Research
- Off-Site Field Research (non-Human Subjects)
- Research in Libraries, Archives, and Collections
- Arts & Humanities/Social Sciences (without face-to-face interactions with study subjects)
- Human Subjects Research
- Animal Research

COLA is such a large and diverse college, we have representatives from each category, and I have assembled an advisory board of scholars to cover each to help guide me through the

process.

According to today's announcement, the University is currently in **RESEARCH PHASE 4**, and we are preparing to enter into **RESEARCH PHASE 3** on June 1, 2020. On the main VPR portal inked above, you will find information about what this transition between research phases means for each category of research. If the research that you do falls into this research phase, then you may apply for approval by filling out the Qualtrics survey on the COLA website. I have linked here again:

https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4lpHyPQdxKBSUqp

*Please read the instructions carefully, including all materials in the **Research Restart Toolkit and Research Restart FAQs**. We will be accepting applications for this research phase through **June 5, 2020, and all applications received by this point will be reviewed together. After this point, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.** Note that the application for the upcoming change in research phases was designed to cover the necessary information for the specific kinds of research that will be allowed during Research Phase 3, particularly on-campus in labs and other spaces that will need to be monitored for density. This application will have multiple forms in future research phases to be more inclusive of the diverse kinds of research conducted by COLA on- and off-campus. *Please don't think we are trying to fit everyone into the same category or that we do not understand the research you are doing.**

Let me know if you have any questions, including if you are having trouble placing your research in category and/or if you are unsure about when the research you do will be allowed.

This will be a challenging process to manage, and it will take a long time before we are normal operations again. This is just a start.

Rob

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Robert Crosnoe, Associate Dean & Rapoport Centennial Professor

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<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/prc/directory/faculty/crosnoer>

From: The Office of the Vice President for Research [mailto:do-not-reply@utlists.utexas.edu]

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 1:09 PM

To: crosnoer@eid.utexas.edu

Subject: Research Restart



TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin Office of the Vice President for Research

Dear PI Colleagues,

After several weeks of careful planning with your associate deans for research (ADRs), and with critical insight from UT health experts and the [university-wide COVID-19 Recovery Executive Committee](#), I am pleased to announce a multi-phase plan to resume research operations. The [full plan and research phases](#) are described on our [Research Restart website](#), and I encourage you to read the plan and our [accompanying FAQs](#) carefully.

The plan outlines a phased system – ranging from 0 to 5 – that will restore our full research enterprise over time while aiming to minimize the risk of coronavirus transmission on campus. This phased strategy establishes new policies regarding face coverings, social distancing, screening, and other workplace practices to balance the need to resume research activities with the need to keep faculty, staff, and graduate students healthy and safe.

Research has been operating according to the plan's **Research Phase 4** guidelines, during which most campus research has been paused, and only essential personnel and research teams with approved exemptions have been permitted on site. As we begin transitioning to **Research Phase 3**, these parameters are expanding to include some forms of research activity that are time sensitive.

Beginning today, **Thursday, May 21, 2020**, PIs who wish to restart their time-sensitive research on campus may request approval through their colleges, schools, or units. Approvals to restart research operations at a substantially reduced workforce capacity, adhering to strict social distancing, face covering, and personal hygiene policies, will be managed by your ADR. Your dean or ADR will send more specific guidance about the research restart process for your college, and links to each college or school's research restart request form are included on [our website](#).

The target date for beginning **Research Phase 3** operation levels is **Monday, June**

1, 2020. Once PIs have obtained formal approval, authorized personnel may enter laboratories to perform preparatory activities prior to June 1, such as lab cleaning, instrument activation/calibration, and supply ordering, while following the safety and social distancing policies outlined in the plan. No new research activities should be initiated before June 1, 2020.

Only those PIs who wish to resume research activity on-site on June 1 need to take action. If you do not need or want your researchers to return to campus yet, you do not need to submit a research restart request at this time. Also, any research that can be done remotely (such as data analysis or manuscript preparation) still should be, and no formal approval is required for remote research activities.

My office has created a [PI Research Restart Toolkit](#) to assist you in your own planning process. The toolkit outlines UT policies and best practices for resuming research operations in your group or laboratory. Additional questions regarding the research restart plan or approval process may be [directed to your ADR](#).

Your safety and health are paramount. Together with the university executive leadership and your deans, I will continually reassess conditions on campus and communicate any changes to you as soon as possible. Our team will also regularly update the toolkit and our website to reflect the most current information available.

The research we do here at UT is extremely important. The core purpose of the university is to transform lives for the benefit of society. Every day, you achieve this purpose by providing training to the next generation of researchers and making critical discoveries that create new economic opportunities and possibilities for a better life. I look forward to supporting you and your research teams as you begin returning to campus to continue your important research mission.

Sincerely,



Alison R. Preston

Interim Vice President for Research

This communication is from Principal Investigators – Official.
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