

Research Continuity and Updates: Fall Semester Opening
Email Sent August 7, 2020

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From: Alan Rudolph

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe. Please keep practicing social distancing and mask wearing as we approach the opening of the semester and the density and energy of our campus grows.

Below are some updates from the Research Continuity Working Group and the Open Forum meetings held this week. Our working group has been working diligently under the leadership first from Dr. Sue VandeWoude and now Dr. Melissa Reynolds. We routinely have had 200-300 participants on our open forums. While these are important communication routes for questions and issues you may have, don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions or issues we may be help to resolve. These times are uncertain and dynamic, so please be patient as we all work together to resolve complex issues as we open the semester.

COVID testing updates: CSU is committed to the health of our students, faculty, and staff. As we begin our fall semester, we want to maintain a thriving environment in which our students can live and learn as we all navigate COVID-19 together. One of the best strategies we have for keeping our community healthy is identifying those who have COVID1-9 and helping them take action to prevent the spread to others. We have already set up symptom based checking and follow up testing as well as asymptomatic screening to control contagion on campus. This is especially important for those spending considerable time on campus and for those in contact with large numbers of students. For more information on our testing plan, please visit the [covid recovery website](#).

Return to Research Request: All investigators must complete a [Research Request Form](#) approved by their department head, college Research Associate Dean, and the CSU Pandemic Preparedness Team. No new work can begin until the laboratory plan is approved at each level and facilities are prepared for safe occupancy. For those research groups who have approved return to research plans, changes can be submitted through the amendment process.

Amend Research Requests: To make minor modifications to an existing, approved research request (e.g., add new staff, change location, or add/change CORE facilities) follow the guidance for an [Amended Research Request](#). Plans for expanding projects and personnel should be developed in partnership with college Research Associate Deans.

Graduate and Undergraduate Students: For incoming graduate students, they will not need to be added to the Return to Research plan if they are temporary/doing rotations. In these cases, we expect PIs to adjust lab schedules and maintain PPE and physical distancing requirements. The same is true for undergraduate students.

If a graduate student is a direct admit into a lab, then the PI needs to submit a research to campus plan or an amendment request. However, if there are substantial changes to the make-up or lab structure, a [formal amendment](#) should be submitted.



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Travel: All University travel must follow CDC guidelines and be approved by the employee's Dean or Vice President. For projects involving travel, visit the CSU Return to Campus web page to complete the [travel exception authorization](#).

Important Reminder: Be sure to use the [symptom checker every day](#) before you visit campus or conduct field work. Please also continue to wear face coverings and maintain physical distancing in research spaces.

The [Return to Research](#) webpage is also a great resource with guidance and resources to prepare for, and implement a safe return to in-person research on-campus.

Finally, I am sure many of you saw the wonderful recognition of our research enterprise as we were ranked 4th amongst Universities worldwide with Solutions to the Pandemic ([The Best Universities Solving the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)). This is a phenomenal acknowledgement for our research community and speaks to the passion and accomplishments of our research faculty, staff and students across all of campus. This recognition is worthy of comment as it not only reflects our deep interdisciplinary and collaborative research expertise in infectious disease and public health but is a reflection of strategic initiatives set up that prepared us to move quickly in response. Examples include the Program of Research and Scholarly Excellence started in 2017 that explicitly links Infectious disease research and development to response, the increased engagement and expansion of BioMARC commercial biomanufacturing, increased agricultural biosecurity and strategic corporate partnerships, and catalyst for innovative partnership teams that are addressing key aspects of pandemic response (e.g. natural transmission, rapid diagnostics).

When more light in the pandemic tunnel we are in is apparent, President McConnell has signaled that we will enter a new strategic transformation process. I think this recognition of our response in this pandemic is a good signal that institutional strategic planning in our research enterprise at CSU can have global impacts and be responsive to our regional, national and international communities. We can use this experience to propel our research enterprise to even greater recognition.

Be well and please take care of yourself and those around you.

Best,
Alan

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