

Research Continuity and Updates
Email Sent August 21, 2020

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From: Alan Rudolph

Dear CSU Research Community,

As we begin the fall semester, I remind you all to be extra vigilant in your actions in these pandemic times and to continue to be mindful of your approach to research operations, training of students, and engagement in discovery. **This is no time to let down our guard.** We need to maintain a heightened awareness of our surroundings and how we engage in our professions. Our extra vigilance will help keep campus research operations open and keep us all healthy.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to everyone for their participation in the "Phase 1" COVID-19 testing program. This testing is critical to establishing an early snapshot and a baseline of information about the presence of virus on campus, which will help our continued monitoring efforts as the semester progresses.

Special appreciation goes to Brad Johnson, our testing project manager, and his team—Kelly Mann, Heather Pidcoke, and Christa Johnson—for the development and implementation of our testing strategy. There are too many individuals to list here who have dedicated long hours to this activity, especially a large cohort of volunteers, undergraduate and graduate students. This was a major undertaking and the implementation was impressive.

As we start the fall semester, we will continue targeted testing to provide a viral surveillance effort that seeks to "flatten the bump" we expect to see with the increasing number of people on campus. This will require all the measures described above. We will also strive to use integrated data about people's daily traffic patterns, case reports coming from symptom checking, aggregate testing results, isolation/quarantine, and wastewater monitoring from 17 sites on campus. Our focus will be on high risk areas and behaviors that might lead to further spread to our campus community.

Experts on campuses across the US and in state and local governments have called university reopening this fall a "grand experiment." There is no pandemic playbook available and we are discovering best practices as we learn about the virus and our own abilities to thwart it. The good news is that CSU has the expertise and the commitment to do our best to stay open and stay healthy!

Special appreciation also goes to all the important supporting units that have kept the research operations running smoothly throughout the spring ramp-down and summer ramp-up, throughout major upheavals and transitions, and managing significant growth in administrative and compliance operations that support research, scholarly, and artistic projects across the University. To all the amazing staff supporting research administration and compliance in the colleges, to OSP, RICRO, BSO, Research Safety Culture, Cores, LAR, and Research Services, **thank you!**



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Some logistical reminders:

- If you have not completed a [Return to Campus Research application](#), please submit your plan for approval before re-engaging in any on-campus activities.
- If you have an approved plan and would like to make a change, please submit a [research amendment](#).
- Undergraduate students are welcome to participate in research this fall, and faculty investigators should integrate their activities as described in their Return to Campus Research plan.
- The university has created a [website](#) for researchers to purchase PPE.
Finally, please know that the bi-weekly forums are open to all, including undergraduate and graduate students, so please distribute this information broadly and help us ensure everyone feels welcome.

Our next Research Continuity Open Forum will take place on Thursday, September 10 from 1-2 p.m. via [Microsoft Teams](#).

You can also submit questions via email to VPR_ResearchContinuity@colostate.edu.

Best,
Alan

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