

Research Town Hall

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RESEARCH

Our goal

Ramp up UVA's research activities in a timely, safe and sustainable manner

Guiding Principles

- Only research activities requiring physical presence on Grounds should be conducted on-Grounds
- “Critical and key research” will be ramped up first

Ramp up will occur in phases

- **Phase 0. Key research continues under “stay-at-home” order: (Currently in Progress)**
Designated faculty & staff continue work on key research in labs under social distancing requirements. VPR office continues to build business process infrastructure, secure supplies working with operations, assist schools in developing a ramp-up approval process, and integrating information across schools.
- **Phase I. Low Density Laboratory and Research Workspace occupancy on Grounds**
Achieved through a school-level approval and monitoring process. Graduate students may be included.
- **Phase II. Medium Density Laboratory and Research Workspace Occupancy on Grounds**
allowed if new infections continue to decline or remain at a low level.
- **Phase III. Normal Density Laboratory and Research Workspace Occupancy on Grounds**
following any new and permanent implementation of safety guidelines. Allowance of Undergraduate researchers back in labs.

How to move into Phase I?

- Establish clear safety guidelines
- Establish a ramp up request approval process
- Establish compliance monitoring mechanisms
- Integrate approval and compliance data across schools

Safety Guidelines

- Social Distancing to meet low density occupancy requirements
- Personal Hygiene- Washing hands frequently
- Wearing face covering at all times

Ramp-up request approval process

- PIs prepare a plan that will be compliant with safety guidelines
- Schools will provide the process for submission and information needed in the plan for consideration of a ramp-up request
- Reviewed and approved by the school

Compliance monitoring mechanisms

- This is a partnership to ramp up research in a timely, safe, and sustainable manner.
- Sustainability depends on compliance.
- Monitoring personal health on a daily basis (self-reporting), wearing a face covering at all times, not coming to work when showing symptoms are part of compliance.

What can you do now as a research leader/PI?

1. Prioritize your projects so that your critical projects (either by nature of the work, timeliness, academic needs of the graduate student) are ready to ramp up first
2. Identify personnel that you need to execute your critical projects including graduate students
3. Review the safety guidelines that must be satisfied, including, spatial density and distancing
4. Evaluate if the available space in your laboratory will accommodate the personnel identified in #2 and meet all distancing, density, and safety guidelines.
5. Reconfigure your space if possible and necessary to meet the guidelines. Develop a sketch of how the laboratory workspace is organized showing how it meets distancing requirements.
6. Consider using shifts and prepare a schedule for each member for the week and share them on a common platform.
7. Develop your lab policy for enforcing distancing guidelines, wearing facial covering at all times, hand sanitizing, and work area clean up requirements.
8. Ensure that you have the cleaning supplies you need, if not flag the need to your department/school.

Your Commitment is Essential

- The success of the ramp up depends on each researcher placing the safety of themselves and the people around them first, while conducting their research.
- In order to reduce our risks this must be a partnership and compliance is essential.

When can we go into phase I?

Dependencies:

1. Development of an application process for ramp up requests
2. Implementation of business processes at central and school levels
3. Acquisition of adequate supplies (PPE, hand sanitizer, etc.)
4. Development of logistics for distribution of supplies
5. Completion of safety training by all lab members

Q&A Session

Some questions may be answered individually after the session.

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A recording of this event will be available on our website
<https://research.virginia.edu/researchtownhall>

