



## Office of the Vice Provost for Research

### Memorandum

To: Provost's Council on Research  
From: Dawn Bonnell, Vice Provost for Research  
Date: July 1, 2020  
Re: **Research Resumption Phase II begins July 13**

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Dear Colleagues,

During the last 6 to 8 weeks, much activity and progress has been made in supporting academic research at Penn. We are grateful to all who have diligently continued remote research activity, worked tirelessly to prepare buildings and labs for research resumption, and/or gradually and safely initiated on-campus research during Phase I of Research Resumption.

As you are aware, Phase I included the development of building strategies to manage pedestrian flow and control population density, implementation of social distancing and facial covering requirements, establishment of daily symptom screening and building access procedures. This process included formal resumption plans for each of the Schools approved by the Vice Provost for Research (VPR), as well as resumption plans for each research activity approved by the Schools. The goal of Phase I is to stress test the infrastructure, processes and impact on behavior: optimizing, filling any gaps and monitoring compliance.

In Phase II the population density will increase and some previously restricted activities, such as limited office use and campus visitors for research studies, will be allowed.

The transition from Phase I to Phase II is guided by:

- Effectiveness and compliance of social distancing and other safety measures
  - determined by survey results, reports to EHRS, reports to VPR, local observations by EHRS and the schools
- Researchers sense of safety
  - determined by survey results
- Evidence of transmission
  - determined by symptom screening results to EHRS and outcomes of contact tracing

In a recent survey 98% of ~600 respondents indicated that compliance was maintained 'all of the time' or 'most of the time' while 2% indicated compliance was maintained only 'some of the time' or 'never'. This is a positive result, but some responses in the comments section indicate concerns over compliance with facial coverings in some of the buildings. Five reports were received by EHRS and those situations have been resolved.

Based on these results, as well as observations in the laboratory buildings, the mechanisms to conduct research on campus safely are functioning well, and additional messaging regarding compliance is warranted. Consequently, after consultation with the Humanities and Social Science Taskforce, the

Laboratory and Clinical Research Taskforce, and the Provost's Council on Research, we announce that Phase II of Research Resumption will begin on July 13, 2020.

In Phase II the population density in any place at any time is limited to 50% of that in normal operations; however, the foundational principle is that social distancing must be maintained and face coverings worn, while hygiene protocols and appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment emphasized. Messaging these principles should be reinforced now and during the transition from Phase I to Phase II. Approval from the School is required to begin expanded activity or new research projects. The revised Research Resumption Policy contains expanded guidance for Phase II resumption. See: [https://research.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/Research-Resumption-Strategy-Master-Plan-revision-6.30.20\\_final.pdf](https://research.upenn.edu/wp-content/uploads/Research-Resumption-Strategy-Master-Plan-revision-6.30.20_final.pdf)

The transition to Phase III is expected to coincide with the campus opening in the fall.

Regardless of your role this progress has been made under the most trying of circumstances, circumstances that could not have been imagined months ago and which speak to the strength and resilience of our community. Please continue to take care of yourselves and those around you.