

Message from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research: Research under new City of Philadelphia guidance

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on behalf of
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To: MED-LIST@LISTS.UPENN.EDU <MED-LIST@LISTS.UPENN.EDU>

Please see below message from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research. Thank you.



Office of the Vice Provost for Research

On Monday, November 16, the city of Philadelphia announced new restrictions for businesses and schools. The city restrictions on the operation of businesses and schools do not impact research functions at Penn.

All research related activity that can be conducted remotely should continue to be done remotely. All research conducted on campus should continue to adhere to the safety measures detailed in the research resumption plans of the research groups and schools. Faculty members and research supervisors should discuss the role safety measures play in supporting low risk conditions for research with their research teams and advise them that using similar safety practices outside of the labs is just as important in controlling viral spread. See <https://research.upenn.edu/resources/resumption/> ;<https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/announcements>

In the case that you experience symptoms, or are in close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, use [PennOpen Pass](#) to obtain rapid access to health care advice and stay home and self isolate. Additionally, please note that with the upcoming holidays, the Commonwealth issued a requirement that those visiting from other states, or returning from other states, are required to have a negative COVID test within 72 hours of returning or quarantine for 14 days.

It's important to point out that on campus research at Penn is carried out within a framework of safety measures that include mandatory mask use, cleaning protocols, social distancing requirements, [PennOpen Pass](#) with associated testing and contact tracing, along with surveillance testing. The research community exhibits a high level of compliance with the safety measures; consequently, community transmission is not occurring within the research community. Note also that the positivity rate on campus remains lower than that of the surrounding community. See <https://coronavirus.upenn.edu/content/dashboard>

Penn is not unique in this regard. Other research universities are experiencing the same trends, lower positivity rates and no community transmission in research spaces due to adherence to safety practices. The examples of research activity at universities illustrate the effectiveness of diligence in safety measures.

Please remember that in the current COVID environment, as we approach the holiday season, and you consider engaging with friends and family, to err on the side of caution.

Stay safe.

Dawn Bonnell
Senior Vice Provost for Research

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