

# Guidelines to Increasing On-Campus Research-Related Activities in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences as the Risk of Spreading COVID-19 Declines

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This document describes a plan to increase on-campus research-related activities in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, including safe, in-person interactions that support research and training of undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. Best practices and procedures are continuously revised and developed in consultation with facility coordinators and the EMS Pandemic Safety Officer. Recommendations will evolve in response to new information becoming available and updates on the [guidance from the Office of the Senior Vice President for Research](#).

## Guidance for EMS research labs and investigators:

1. All laboratories and research teams should develop plans to increase on-campus research-related activities, balancing safety, community responsibility, and research productivity. We encourage laboratories to provide mentorship of undergraduate students regarding COVID protocols and best practices for in-person research.
2. All research activities should be consistent with [University guidance](#) and adhere to Return to Work on Campus information for [Faculty](#) and [Staff](#).
3. Plans to increase on-campus research-related activities must follow [current University masking and physical distancing guidance](#), optimize occupancy densities, provide options for vulnerable individuals, as well as options for researchers to have safe places to eat during breaks.
4. When facilities are in shared buildings, department and institute leaders should coordinate in the development of consistent plans to increase on-campus research-related activities.
5. Requests for health-related needs and for workplace adjustments should be made by completing the [Faculty Work Adjustment Request Form](#) or following the [Staff Remote Working Request Process](#) and sending it to the unit HR Strategic Partner or the Graduate Student Assistant/Trainee Activity Adjustment Request Form and sending it to [gradstudentaffairs@psu.edu](mailto:gradstudentaffairs@psu.edu).
6. For investigators with work adjustments approved to have no in-person teaching component, the assumption is that they will not come to campus for meetings, events, or to conduct research, and that they will not travel on behalf of the University. If they plan to participate in any of these activities, they must first make a request to the Dean (in the case faculty and staff) or the Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research (in the case of graduate student assistants or trainees).
7. Human subjects research should continue to adhere to the [Revised Standards for Human Subjects Research and related FAQs](#). This guidance applies to human subjects research that is conducted both on-campus and off-campus, and in-person and remote.

As State and Federal guidance continue to evolve regarding telework and in-person work, additional guidance can be expected about the impacts on the University's health and safety practices and expectations. If a rapid reduction in on-campus research becomes necessary, we will revert to the ramp-

down plan described in the [EMS Guidelines to Sustaining Safe, Research-Related Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) developed in Fall 2020. If a shutdown of campus facilities is necessary, the college will reduce access to only allow activities that if discontinued would pose a safety hazard, maintain critical equipment in facilities and laboratories, as well as critical samples, reagents, data and materials, with prior approval from the dean.

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Research has developed and maintains a list of [FAQs for Research](#) for on-campus research after June 28, 2021.

Students, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Resident students can upload their vaccine information into the [MyUHS portal](#). Faculty, Staff and World Campus students can provide their vaccination status using [SalesForce Health Cloud](#).

**Non-compliance** – If an individual is aware of any non-compliance or safety violation, they should report it to [safety@ems.psu.edu](mailto:safety@ems.psu.edu). Alternatively, they can report the situation to their facility coordinator who will then communicate with the appropriate department head, institute director and Pandemic Safety Officer. Persistent non-compliance, when confirmed by the Dean, may result in removal of the individual's approval for conducting research on-campus or at other facilities.