



## Principles and Processes for Restarting Research at Pitt Post-COVID-19

**Goal:** *To move research and scholarship on campus towards a normal level while maintaining a safe environment for everyone at the University and in the surrounding community.*

1. The University will adhere to guidance from the Commonwealth and local public health authorities' directives.
2. The University will take reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of the research workforce and others on campus, including limiting on-campus operating presence.
3. Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) will have oversight for all special COVID related health and safety criteria, including appropriate standards for personal protective equipment (PPE).
4. Field research will only be able to resume when travel restrictions are relaxed, and this will vary widely by field location.
5. A Research Restart Initiative, under the leadership of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Research, will advise on protocols, priorities and sequencing for resumption of research programs.
6. Access for research and for research support and maintenance activities deemed essential will continue during restart phases.
7. The restart of normal research and scholarly operations will take a phased approach informed by public health authorities' loosening of social distancing directives and the particular modes of work for each research group.
8. Because we may experience a secondary growth of COVID-19 cases as U.S. and local economies restart, we must be prepared for setbacks and the need to reduce research on the Pittsburgh campus again.
9. Schools and departments should implement their restart of research activities to mitigate impacts to early career researchers and research trainees working to complete degree or other training requirements, to the extent feasible.
10. Restarting undergraduate research programs in PI-led labs and undergraduate teaching laboratories should be done in coordination with the Office of the Provost.
11. The restart of research should be analyzed within broad categories that include:
  - Physical science labs
  - Wet biological and biomedical labs
  - Use of animal facilities

- Clinical research and clinical trials
  - Other human research participants
  - Physical collections, including libraries
  - Studio, performance, and rehearsal spaces
12. Schools and departments may need to customize access and procedures to enable research capacity within new guidelines, including 24-hour access, shifts and enhanced PPE.
  13. Each PI must develop and implement safety practices appropriate, subject to review, for the re-opening scenario adopted for the University. Initial guidance will come from EH&S as it may be modified for the circumstances of schools, departments, and other units.
  14. PIs may have graduate students or other trainees return to active research in accordance with the Office of the Provost, which is managing the designation of trainees as essential research personnel.
  15. The web-based Building Access request system will be used to understand building occupancy levels.

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