RESUMING ON-SITE RESEARCH OPERATIONS

GUIDANCE

Guided by the governor’s directives, local public health officials, and university leadership, research and scholarly activities (including previously identified essential research), laboratory work, field work, core facilities and service labs, and other work that requires special facilities, equipment, in-person contact with research subjects, or access to protected data may be conducted on campus, pending completion of relevant safety plans and unit approval.

STEPS FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

Scholars who wish to return to on-site research activities should conduct a self-assessment: Can you complete your work remotely? Research and scholarly activities that can be continued remotely (for example, research that is primarily computational, archival, and/or theoretical) should continue in that manner.

If you need to return to on-site activities, then take the following steps:

- Complete COVID-19 Safety Training.
- Complete COVID-19 Safety Measures Template.
- Confirm Updates to Lab Safety Plans, if applicable.
- Review Safe Conduct of Essential Research Activities.
- Amend IRB protocols (if your research involves human subjects).
- Complete the Resumption of Animal Research Request Form (if your research involves animals).
- Consult with your unit leadership for college and department-specific requirements.

Note that principal investigators should be prepared to quickly reduce on-campus research-related activities if so directed by the university.

STEPS FOR UNITS

Unit heads should take these steps:

1. Determine the priorities of research projects and investigators to resume on-site operations, using college or institute priorities from self-assessment plans.
2. Determine which of your research projects and investigators have safety plans in place and are therefore ready to return.
3. Arrange with F&S for cleaning and/or engineering controls necessary for return.
4. Provide additional PPE (beyond campus masks) if necessary for return.
5. Communicate unit approval and the expected timeframe for resuming onsite operations to investigators.

Questions? Contact OVCR@illinois.edu or visit research.illinois.edu/return-onsite-research-and-scholarship.