

This message is being sent on behalf of Dr. Peter J. Snyder, vice president for Research and Economic Development and Ted Myatt, associate vice president for research administration.

Phased Plan for Resumption of Research Activities at URI

April 15, 2021

Dear URI Research Community,

Since mid-June 2020, we have been in Phase 3 of the five-phase plan for resumption of research (*Principles and Framework Guiding a Phased Approach to Restarting University Research Activity*). Due to the dedication and compliance of the research community, we have been successful at keeping research operations moving forward, while also ensuring the safest work environment possible.

Due to the broad roll out of the vaccine in Rhode Island and low levels of community spread, we are moving to Phase 4 in the five-phase plan. Examples of research operations that will be somewhat relaxed include:

- Approval of domestic, research related travel by the Division is no longer necessary. All Rhode Island requirements for quarantine/testing should continue to be adhered to.
- For more information see: <https://covid.ri.gov/covid-19-prevention/travel-tofrom-ri>.
 - Note: Pre-approval is still required for all international university-related travel

- Limits related to staff numbers of laboratory animal holding rooms will be relaxed from 2 to 3 individuals
- For Human Subject Research, COVID safety plans will continue to be required, however, the length of time close contact is allowed will be expanded assuming proper PPE, ventilation, and possible vaccination of participants and study staff.
- For Human Subject Research, we request that investigators consider using vaccination of participants and an inclusion criteria if possible.
- Restrict close encounters to the people with whom you live
- Stay physically distant, at least 6 feet apart
- Wear face coverings
- Complete the daily health attestation if you are coming to campus
- Stay home if you are ill, even mildly ill
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, and regularly sanitize common surfaces

Please note that if your research plans change, please ensure your COVID safety plan has been updated and reviewed. You can go to <https://web.uri.edu/research-admin/uri-research-covid-19-update/> for research related guidance and to www.uri.edu/emergency/covid/ for the latest university-specific guidance/requirements related to face coverings, events and isolation/quarantine. These sites are being updated regularly as new guidance is received from the [Rhode Island Department of Health](https://www.health.ri.gov/) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/).

Thank you,
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