

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

Phased Plan for Resumption of Research Activities at URI

May 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As you all know, Governor Raimondo recently modified her stay-at-home orders for Rhode Island, with an initial change occurring this past week on the 9th of May. As she continues to implement her phased plan for the state in response to the current health crisis, we know that the governor will continue to rely on the excellent advice that she receives from RIDOH, from careful consideration of scientific data, and from a variety of public health experts. Importantly, her plan is bidirectional, such that she may ask us to move to a state of either lessened or greater restrictions, in response to constantly changing public health information.

Likewise, URI needs to rely on a similar plan to accomplish the same goals, and to remain in step with the governor's changing requirements for state, public and private institutions. Over the past few weeks, my office has worked with an *ad hoc* committee of faculty and administrators to develop the attached 5-Phased Plan for resumption of research and scholarly activities on university campuses. This plan has been thoroughly vetted by the division's Research Advisory Committee, as well as by the president's senior leadership team.

I am asking that you carefully review the attached document and to adhere to the safety procedures listed throughout this plan. I am entirely sure that this

plan will not have anticipated every contingency or special case, nor is it “set in stone” and unmodifiable. Rather, this plan needs to remain subject to amendment as necessary, as we learn more about the virus and its transmission, as testing capabilities improve and become more readily available, as treatment(s) are discovered, and as future outbreaks of the virus occur within our geographic region.

Importantly, with this announcement, I am also letting you know that **we are in PHASE 2 of this current 5-phase plan**. It is my sincere hope that we will move to phase 3 sometime in June, and future announcements about this will of course happen as soon as is appropriate.

Thank you all for your understanding, for your hard work, and for your patience during these trying times.

Best wishes,
Peter

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