

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** University of Arizona Researchers  
**From:** Elizabeth (Betsy) Cantwell, PhD, Senior Vice President for Research & Innovation  
**CC:** Deans, Associate Deans for Research, Department Heads  
**Date:** January 8, 2021  
**Re:** January Research Update

*Elizabeth R. Cantwell*

COVID-19 case numbers in Arizona are the highest in the world this week. Hospitals in our state are near or at capacity. Banner facilities are pausing elective surgeries and procedures. The full impact of gatherings that took place over the winter break is not yet known. The [Spring 2021 semester will start](#) in Instructional Stage 1 on Jan. 13: Only essential, hands-on courses will meet in-person. All other courses will begin remotely during Stage 1.

Our research safety procedures have not changed since RII's last communication on Dec. 17. Please continue your vigilance and review your strategies to continue safe research efforts. We remain in [Research Restart Phase 3](#), but work should not be expanded without considering the risk to both your teams and to the community. Please review these mitigation strategies to ensure the continued adherence to CDC and other guidelines:

- Transition all work possible to remote work, in accordance with [University of Arizona Work from Home guidance](#).
- Delay or re-prioritize on-campus work.
- Delay or re-prioritize work that involves field work and/or [travel](#).
  - Priorities for both on- and off-campus work remain: 1) experiments and/or field work where a delay would result in loss of data/research results, specimens, or animals; 2) research on COVID-19 across disciplines; 3) graduating students or early-career faculty whose graduation or term of appointment is in Spring 2021; and 4) completion of grants where the funding agency has not granted leniency on the end date or deliverables schedule.
- Reduce the number of personnel present in one room at any time, and pursue alternate remote assignments where possible.
- For human subjects research:
  - Subject consent should occur remotely wherever possible.
  - COVID-19 or research that has the potential to be lifesaving or disease altering (both Banner and non-Banner) may proceed.
  - For studies that involve in-person activities, pause new recruitment / recruitment that hasn't yet started.
  - Follow additional [Banner guidelines](#) for research in Banner facilities.
- If you plan to shutdown your lab for any period of time, follow the [RLSS Temporary Laboratory Closure Guidance](#).



If you plan to do research that isn't completely remote (including occasional visits to campus, field work, off-campus work, etc.), you must complete a [Research Restart Checklist](#) before commencing work if you have not already submitted one.

As noted during the [Jan. 5 Virtual Campus Reentry News Conference](#) about Spring 2021, certain employees will be required to test weekly. More information about that and vaccinations is coming soon. Continue to monitor the University's [Coronavirus webpage](#) and the [Research COVID-19 webpage](#) for updates, FAQs, and guidance. Your Associate Dean for Research is a further resource.

The next few weeks will be critical in slowing the spread of the coronavirus and ramping up vaccination. Your commitment to safety as we continue to navigate this pandemic is greatly appreciated.