

April 26, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As our County enters the State's Orange Tier, we would like to provide an update on the status of on-campus research. While we can make some changes to our ramp-up given the improving situation locally, we must remain vigilant in adhering to our COVID safety standards. We also recognize that there is widespread interest in taking even greater steps in view of the fact that many researchers have now been vaccinated. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to use vaccine status as a method to further increase density or allow unmasked work or closer contact at this time. We know this is a source of frustration and we hope to have good news soon, but we are dependent on State and UCOP policies that have not yet been determined but are under consideration at this time.

Below are updates on areas of research that we have been able to expand, as well as points of clarification:

- **Building Occupancy**
  - In general, we will continue to follow County guidelines
  - Building committees can move to 50% density in rooms with high performance HVAC (above MERV-13). We are no longer restricting occupancy based on area per person in these rooms. Rather, distancing should be 6'. This should allow more flexibility in laboratory configurations. Building Committees have access to information about what spaces meet these standards. Any increased density in these spaces is at the discretion of the building committee
  - Single occupancy office use for graduate students will begin to be integrated into building plans. Please work with your building committee to provide solutions for graduate students
  - Masking is still required in campus buildings, irrespective of vaccination status
- **Human Subjects Research**
  - All Human Subjects Research requests involving in-person research activities must still be approved by the Participant Safety Committee
  - For studies involving community members, 1:1 interactions are allowed provided there is masking, distancing, and a negative COVID test of the experimenter within 72 hours
  - On-campus studies involving 1:1 interactions with community members that are indoors are subject to density limits and HVAC analysis
  - For 1:1 studies with community members off-campus, outdoors is preferred. Indoor off-campus research will be considered on a case by case basis
  - Interactions with small groups within the community will be considered on a case by case basis

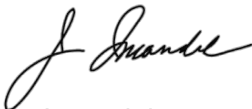
- Updates to our guidance and Risk Matrix will be posted on the [Human Subjects website](#)
- **Undergraduate Research**
  - Requests for additional on-campus undergraduate researchers, and off-campus undergraduate researchers within a 100 mile radius (besides at home research) should continue to be sent to Building Committees, then to the appropriate Dean who will make recommendations to the Campus COVID coordinator for approval.
  - UGs and faculty mentors should only ask for approval for local students, ready to begin their work
  - An updated form for requesting an undergraduate researcher - including new required information for student perm number, start date and building/ building committee information can be found [here](#)
  - All undergraduate researchers must comply with weekly COVID testing. The Office of Research will send weekly notifications to non-compliant students and their PIs. Undergraduate researchers who have been approved but are not currently coming to campus will be temporarily deactivated from on-campus research approval status until they return. PIs should communicate any changes to their undergraduate researcher status to Hilary Campbell at [campbell@research.ucsb.edu](mailto:campbell@research.ucsb.edu)
- **Off-site Research**
  - Faculty on sabbatical involved in distant (>100 miles from campus) field or lab work should submit a request to the OSRC

We look forward to continuing to ramp-up the on campus research enterprise. Please reach out to [vicechancellor@research.ucsb.edu](mailto:vicechancellor@research.ucsb.edu) with any questions regarding the status of the ramp-up.

Sincerely,



Scott Grafton  
Campus COVID-19 Coordinator



Joe Incandela  
Vice Chancellor for Research