

June 30, 2021

**To: UCSB Faculty and Staff**

**RE: Recommendations from Research Oversight Committee**

Dear Colleagues,

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> the campus released updated [guidelines](#) for reopening the campus in the setting of COVID-19. Faculty, staff and students who are returning to work in person should consult that memo as well as the campus COVID-19 [website](#) where continuing requirements, such as online training for COVID-19 and registration for daily symptom screening are located.

Given the positive changes to campus guidelines, the Research Oversight Committee has revised some of the ongoing research policies. The following summarizes these changes, to take effect immediately. Note that all of the campus guidelines for COVID-19 remain conditional on low prevalence of COVID on campus as well as in the community.

### **Off-Site Research Committee**

Investigators seeking to perform research off-campus at any distance are no longer required to have their protocol reviewed by the off-site research committee. Those traveling out of state, including internationally should follow all CDC travel recommendations and local health ordinances with respect to testing, masking and quarantine. They should be particularly attentive to risk of COVID-19 transmission based on local conditions. Researchers can room together and also travel in vehicles together. If vaccinated, they do not need to wear mask. The off-site research committee is available for those in need of consultation for complex travel scenarios.

### **Participant Safety Committee**

A number of changes have been implemented for monitoring COVID-19 related risk in human subject research. Investigators are referred to the PSC [website](#). Investigators who are vaccinated and directly involved in testing of participants in human research no longer need to have their protocols reviewed by the Participant Safety Committee (with exceptions). Those vaccinated researchers with ongoing protocols no longer need to adhere to the strict criteria established by the Participant Safety Committee. The Committee will remain available for any investigator with concerns related to COVID-19 mitigation.

### **Undergraduate Researchers**

Requests for on-campus undergraduate researchers no longer require Dean or Office of Research approval. In lieu of the former approval process, this [Google form](#) must be completed by the PI/supervisor prior to the undergraduate beginning on-campus research. Upon successful submission of this form, no further approval from the Office of Research is required. Students who have not been verified as fully vaccinated will require weekly COVID-19 testing to obtain a “cleared to work” badge.

### **Role of Building Committees**

Building committees are no longer required to track daily visitors, including undergraduate researchers, graduate students or staff. They are not required to approve Participant Safety Committee protocols or track visitors participating in experiments. The plan is to track building occupancy via the daily symptom survey software. That provides sufficient information to allow for contact tracing without involvement of the building committees. For more information please see the [June 23 memo](#). Building committees will need to maintain a list of authorized building occupants and their contact information: phone, email and perm numbers (for students).

As always, we remain vigilant for changing conditions that might warrant any modifications to our strategies for minimizing risk while maintaining a productive research environment.

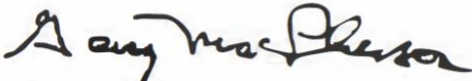
Sincerely,



Scott Grafton  
Campus COVID-mitigation Program Manager



Joe Incandela  
Vice Chancellor for Research



Garry Mac Pherson  
Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services



David Marshall  
Executive Vice Chancellor