

UC Santa Barbara Research Ramp-up Stage 3

June 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to provide you with a status update on UCSB's research ramp-up. This past week we have begun a gradual return of on-campus research as we move into Stage 3 of our [ramp-up plan](#). We will soon have approximately 500 more researchers on campus at any one time. This is roughly 15% of all laboratory researchers, excluding undergraduates.

We have created a new [Off-Site Research Committee](#) that will review field research, research that requires substantial travel and other off-site research. The focus of the committee will be to assess COVID-19 risk mitigation procedures proposed for these programs. Because many, but not all, off-site activities are coupled with on-campus activities, this committee will interface directly with building committees. Field research in California counties where allowed by local health authorities will be starting soon in Stage 3. For off-site research that involves more significant travel, guidelines are currently under development to include this research in a future Stage. Faculty should direct proposed off-site research plans to their building committees who will review them and route them to the Off-site Research Committee. Of course, research involving computing and data analysis at one's residence, while technically *off-site* research, has always been encouraged and does not need to be reviewed.

I know that many of you are eager to resume on-campus and field research, while others may feel concerned about health risks. As more people return to campus or resume field research activities, I cannot emphasize the following points strongly enough:

1. The health and safety of the UCSB community is our primary concern. We all have an obligation to protect ourselves and each other. Follow the operating plans that have been designed and approved for your group and building or off-site research program. Make sure to study the [guidelines](#) and [presentation](#) that have been prepared to help you understand how COVID-19 is transmitted and how to protect yourself and others. Remember that all PIs are required to ensure that their team members have studied these materials and to provide all team members with copies of the protocols they have prepared for their research programs. Take the concerns of others around you seriously and

Speak up when you see someone who may need to be reminded to follow the guidelines.

2. No researcher should feel compelled to work on campus or in the field if they are not comfortable to do so. All researchers approved to be on campus are required to take a daily wellness assessment prior to coming into work and we strongly recommend that you perform the assessment even on days that you do not come to work. A reminder will be sent to you via email daily. It is private, secure and provides you with a check on whether or not it is best to stay home to take care of yourself and to protect our colleagues.
3. Protocols for protecting your health and for safe work practices should be rigorously maintained. Everyone must have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) specific to routine hazards associated with their research, and must adhere to all documented protocols designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you do not have the required PPE and supplies, research must pause until they are obtained.

As top researchers in our fields, we have an opportunity to provide an example of how to do this well. Our experiences will inform and guide the planning now underway to open up other parts of the university to enable more of our mission to be accomplished.

There are several items that have come up during the ramp-up of Stage 3 thus far that I would now like to address.

- **In-person human subjects research is not in Stage 3**, but work is going on now to prepare for the possibility of some human subjects research in Stage 4.
- **Building Committee members are asked to do regular walkthroughs of their buildings to monitor covid-mitigation compliance.** When someone is not in compliance, please take note, and remind them to do so. We will track these occurrences in order to determine if some additional measures are needed and because very high (near 100%) compliance needs be demonstrated before we can move to Stage 4. If there are egregious cases of repeated or flagrant non-compliance, those involved may be asked to shut down their programs.
- **If your building has not yet been opened**, but your building's Stage 3 research plan is ready and approved, then it is likely that your building needs EH&S and DFSS clearances. DFSS verifies that water is not contaminated, that cleaning plans are in place, and HVAC is functioning properly. EH&S reviews safety plans for each project and for the building as a whole. Walk-throughs of common spaces and individual labs ensures no problems have been overlooked. The [Research Building Open Status](#) page will be updated regularly. Opening buildings takes time and only a few buildings can be opened each week. Many people are working very hard to get your building ready for you to get back to your research. Please be patient!

- Undergraduates are included in Stages 1, 2, or 3 of the ramp-up in the very rare cases in which they are irreplaceable for essential maintenance. We will consider proposals for **small numbers of undergraduates to begin research in Stage 4**, such as those with summer fellowships (e.g. CCS, Worster, etc.).

I thank you for your patience and hard work in preparing our return to research. Looking ahead, I am confident that we can carry out our research while protecting the health and well-being of our colleagues and students by adhering to the science-driven plans we as a community have prepared for carrying out [Research in the time of COVID-19](#).

Many important resources are linked below for you to review. Please send comments or questions about the research ramp-up to ViceChancellor@Research.ucsb.edu.

Sincerely,



Joe Incandela
Vice Chancellor for Research

UCSB Resources for Ramping up Research

[Research in the Time of COVID - VCR memo to Deans 5/29/20](#)

[Ramp-up stage definitions and guidelines](#)

[Guidelines for Establishing Safe Research Practices](#)

[Guidance for Building Committees](#)

[Research Building Groups](#)

[Off-site Building Committee Guidance](#)

[Research Building Open Status](#)

[Symptom Screening and Monitoring](#)

[COVID-19 safety presentation](#)

[EH&S Biological Safety COVID-19 Resources](#)

Federal, State and Local Government Resources

[Considerations for Institutes of Higher Education](#)

[CDC Guidance for Colleges and Universities](#)

[CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)

[California Department for Public Health Guidance for Colleges and Universities](#)

[California State Roadmap](#)

[California State Industry Guides and Checklists](#)

[Santa Barbara County Public Health Guidance](#)