

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean for Research

To: The Research Community
From: Pablo G. DeBenedetti, Dean for Research
Subject: Return to Normal Research Operations on August 15th
Date: August 8, 2022

Dear colleagues,

On July 28th, the University announced [important updates to COVID-19 policies](#): Highlights include:

- **Building Access:** Effective August 15th, the University will resume pre-COVID-19 schedules for academic and administrative buildings (e.g., buildings with classrooms will be unlocked M-F 7am-8:30pm.)
- **Visitors:** The [visitor policy](#) remains in effect, with the exception that the University will no longer require visitors to campus to submit attestations.
- **Vaccinations:** Boosters are no longer required, but all vaccinated students and employees are strongly encouraged to stay up to date with all CDC recommended COVID-19 booster doses when eligible. Primary series of vaccines remain required.
- **Testing:** Students and employees are no longer required to submit asymptomatic test samples, but are asked to voluntarily test monthly. The University will continue to offer testing on demand and the campus testing lab will process saliva samples submitted by campus community members.
- **Face Coverings:** Instructors may continue to require masks in classrooms, labs, and other teaching environments.

Should public health circumstances change, the University may need to reimpose mandates to mitigate COVID-19.

The [Plan for the Resumption of On-Campus Research](#), posted on May 28th 2020, identified [four levels of operation](#). Since June 17th, 2020, campus research operations have remained at Level 2 (Phased Resumption). Significant public health and safety restrictions, including on building access and visitor access to campus, underlay the decision to remain in Level 2 until now. The recently-announced updates to COVID-19 policies, including returning to pre-pandemic building access and transition to an honor system for visitors, amount to a return to as close to normal campus activities as circumstances allow.

I am pleased to announce that research operations will return to Level 1 (Normal Operations), effective August 15, when building access will return to the pre-COVID-19 schedule. On that date, the [COVID-19 Guidance for Resuming Human Subjects Research](#) and the [Guidelines for Resuming Field Research](#) will no longer be active.

It has been a long and challenging journey for our research enterprise since the start of the pandemic. I am enormously grateful for the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices that each of you has made in the intervening 29 months. Your cooperation, dedication and persistence have allowed our research

enterprise to implement a resilient, effective, and public health-driven response to the pandemic's many challenges.

With gratitude and admiration,

Pablo

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