

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Office of the Dean for Research

To: Assistant, Associate and Full Professors, Department Chairs, Academic Managers in Divisions I, II, III and IV

From: Pablo G. Debenedetti, Dean for Research

Subject: Revised Guidelines for Field Research During COVID-19

Date: May 1, 2021

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to announce revised guidelines for resuming field research, which are effective immediately. A group of field research faculty, working the offices of the Dean for Research and Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), has developed guidelines and a process to review and approve field research that is consistent with the manner in which current on-campus research is reviewed and approved.

The [Guidelines for Resuming Field Research](#) expand upon and replace the previously issued Field Animal Research guidelines and apply to all field research faculty, students, researchers, staff and postdoctoral researchers who may be considered part of the research team, regardless of whether the research occurs domestically or internationally. The guidelines apply to all forms of field research, whether in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, or engineering and applied sciences. Field research is any form of research conducted outside of a laboratory, academic building or library. [Human subjects research guidelines](#) are handled separately from field research.

In the guidelines, field research is divided into three categories based upon the ability to maintain social distancing. For all categories, a [Field Research Plan](#) indicating how researchers will comply with social distancing and hygiene practices while conducting field research must be submitted by each Principal Investigator (PI) to their department chair or institute director for approval. Once approved by the chair/director, the PI then submits the plan to the Dean for Research for review and approval, by e-mailing it to researchplan@princeton.edu, prior to conducting any field research. The PI is responsible for securing any additional approvals including those required by the department, approvals related to travel, funding, and local permits and permissions, as well as research compliance-related approvals such as from the IACUC, IBC and export control.

Travel associated with field research must comply with [University travel guidelines](#), and PIs must ensure that all travel proposed as part of field research is permissible under University policy.

If you have any questions about the guidelines or their applicability, please contact EHS (ehs@princeton.edu) or Stuart Leland, Director of Research Integrity and Assurance (sleland@princeton.edu). Questions about the status of plans under review should be directed to researchplan@princeton.edu.

With all good wishes,

Pablo

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