



Principles and Guidelines for Restarting On Campus Research in Arts Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Law, Library (AHSSBL)

This document outlines principles and guidelines for restarting research in Arts Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Law, Library (AHSSBL) across the University of Pittsburgh. The goal is to provide a broad and consistent structure for departments, institutes, and centers to restart research activities. This set of guidelines pertains to research activities in the areas above, including but not limited to those involving *Experimental Research with Human subjects* and *interinstitutional collaborations*

PRINCIPLES/CONSIDERATIONS

1. Research is an essential function of the faculty, staff, and trainees of the University of Pittsburgh and the results of research are of great value to society.
2. The safety of members of the University campus community and of our research participants is of paramount importance.
3. Planning should be grounded in science and CDC guidance regarding both good laboratory practice with infectious agents and specific information about SARS-CoV-2 and its observed manifestations in Pittsburgh.
4. The careers and livelihoods of many faculty, staff, students, and others at the University depend on the ability to continue ongoing research and initiate new research activities.
5. Experimental social and human science (ESHS) research involves both researchers and participants, so safety, ethics, and building access/density considerations are needed for **both** groups.
6. ESHS research poses liability risks, due to possible transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from a researcher to a participant and vice versa.
7. ESHS research should avoid potential conflict of interest, where the research needs of PI/RC to influence decision-making about safety, (See IRB guidelines).
8. Some ESHS research necessarily involves close physical interactions and/or groups of individuals interacting with each other and/or the recruitment of individuals especially vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2
9. Where research facilities involve spaces that are not large enough to maintain recommended social distancing and/or that might require extended periods of proximity within a small room, *follow recommendations/guidelines by the EH&S.*
10. Some ESHS research cannot be conducted with full use of PPE by both researchers and participants. In these cases researcher should consider wearing eye protection and remaining behind a barrier or use alternate means of conducting the research.

GUIDELINES

Overarching: **all work** that can be performed remotely should continue to be performed remotely

Requirements prior to entering the research environment (on campus)

1. Vulnerable individuals, including those 65 or older and those with underlying medical conditions (as described by the CDC) that are not well-controlled, are encouraged to continue remote work.
2. Research personnel (incl. staff, undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students) can return to the research space within guidelines specified by the University of Pittsburgh and in consultation with their faculty supervisor/PI, institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee.
3. Any individuals who have traveled from an area of the US that remains under stay-at-home orders or who have travelled internationally within the last 14 days, must self-quarantine for 14 days (exemptions possible for personnel with patient care responsibilities who undergo appropriate screening).
4. If you have tested positive for Covid-19, have been in contact (without appropriate PPE) with someone known to have Covid-19, have been told by a public health official or employer that you may have been exposed to Covid-19 in the past two weeks, or been in contact with anyone showing Covid-19 symptoms (as detailed in #6), **you must not** return to the research area and you must contact your faculty supervisor/PI, institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee immediately.
5. If you are experiencing symptoms of new shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat within the past few days or have fever, sweating, chills, any loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, nausea, or diarrhea **you must not** return to the research area and you must contact your faculty supervisor/PI, institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee immediately.
6. For personnel returning to research laboratories (or to work with human subjects), a Covid-19 safety-training module must be completed successfully prior to returning. For essential personnel who currently have access to research buildings they must complete the module no later than 2 weeks before returning to the lab.

Requirements within the research environment (on campus)

1. Personnel entering a research facility are subject to any University of Pittsburgh screening procedures that are currently in place for specific entrances before being allowed to proceed to their specific research space.
2. Either a self-supplied cloth/barrier mask or a Pitt supplied ear loop face mask must be worn from the time of entry into the building until the time of exit from the building, except while eating with greater than 6 ft distancing, or in an enclosed single-person office space, or while involved in an approved exemption. Note: Use of masks is encouraged during the entire commute for personnel taking public transport or sharing transportation/carpooling. ([See CDC Guidelines on cleaning/care of cloth masks](#)).
3. Faculty researchers should maintain a personal log of daily entry times and exit times, any 'close contacts' (as defined below), and confirmation of lack of exposure (#5 above) and

symptoms (see #6 above) that is checked weekly by the faculty supervisor/PI, institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee.

4. Each faculty researcher or research group should maintain a log of research participants and the individuals each participant interacted with (see 'close contact' defined below) during their in-person study involvement (see also items 5 and 6 above). The log should be checked weekly by faculty supervisor/PI.
5. Within the research building environment, a minimum of 6ft physical distancing must be maintained at all times **when possible**, including bathrooms, and breakrooms (apart from transient unavoidable situations—for example, personnel in stairwells, hallways). Elevators should be limited to 2 or 4 persons at a time wearing face coverings. Flow of foot traffic on a floor should be maintained in one direction where possible. Safeguarding hand washing practices and hand sanitizer use must be observed.
6. Within laboratories/research/waiting spaces **a minimum of 6ft physical distancing must be maintained at all times when possible**. In special work areas or situations where 6ft distancing is not possible, personnel must **adhere to Pitt School of Medicine guidelines for 'close contact with an asymptomatic individuals'** *(current guidelines: minimum of standard surgical ASTM level 1 mask [not N95] and eye protection; gowns and gloves may be required for specific research protocols/projects).
7. In some research spaces it may be necessary to decrease personnel density and or furniture/equipment to maintain physical distancing. In these cases, researchers are encouraged to look into the possibility of the developing of shift scheduling (e.g two 3-hour shifts). Schedules will need to synchronize with other research spaces on the same floor to minimize interaction in hallways and communal areas. Faculty/Pis, in consultation with institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee should come to amicable agreements to specific shift assignments, including weekend activity, (including any remote work).
8. At the end of any shift period or workday the outgoing researchers must wipe all actively used surfaces and equipment with appropriate cleaning or disinfectant materials. Similar cleaning should be done for all spaces and equipment between each use involving research participants.
9. In-person research meetings are strongly discouraged and should be conducted using internet-based platforms as the first option (See overarching guideline). If a web-based/internet option is not viable, a minimum of 6ft physical distancing must be maintained and limited to 10 personnel. (See item 5)
10. Upon notification of a confirmed positive Covid-19 individual, areas where the person has visited in the 48 hrs. before emergence of symptoms, or before notification of a positive test, (whichever is the more recent) must be prepared to close for up to 24 hrs. and appropriate cleaning and disinfectant procedures undertaken. Any personnel that meet the CDC and **Pitt School of Medicine criteria** for 'close contact'** with the Covid-19 positive individual must undergo a 14-day quarantine period and test Covid-19 negative before returning to the research environment.
11. In the event of future outbreak cases, all AHSSBL research, if directed, will return to an 'essential personnel' and remote work environment within a three-day period (including weekends).
12. Each laboratory PI and/or consolidated research units (e.g. open lab areas) will be required to complete a provided templated plan/checklist that is shared with all research personnel and

approved by the faculty supervisor/PI, institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee **prior** to restarting research. Individual faculty/laboratory PIs are accountable for the compliance of their personnel in their own laboratory space, in shared research space, and in the research facility in general. faculty supervisor/PI, institute director, division chief, department chair or appropriate designee, and deans are accountable for compliance of all faculty/Pis and laboratories within their appropriate school/division.

13. For the safety of all personnel in the research environment, any individuals or research units found to be persistently non-compliant in the directives listed above, will be subject appropriate disciplinary actions per University guidelines, which may include denial of access to research facilities.