

May 19, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents, Fellows and Students,

These past few months have been extremely demanding and confusing for our researchers here at the School of Medicine. Many have been asked to slow down or completely stop the research that is so important both to us as a school and to them as researchers. Others have been asked to step up and rapidly develop therapeutics, vaccines and tests for COVID-19.

Now that the stay-at-home orders have been lifted for St. Louis City and St. Louis County, we can gradually start to bring people back to the Medical campus to restart their research. To do this successfully, every person on campus must take personal responsibility to slow the spread of the virus. Assume that anyone (including yourself) could be shedding virus.

Starting tomorrow (Wednesday, May 20), laboratory research can begin to gradually ramp-up their research activities. Ramp up plans must be approved by the division or the department and all preparations must be completed before researchers return to the lab.

A few key points that we are emphasizing:

- Do not come to campus if you are sick
 - Self screen for symptoms before coming to campus using the BJC mobile website (www.bjc.org/employeescreening).
 - Check in at a checkpoint station before going to your laboratory.
- Wear a mask, either cloth or disposable
 - Universal masking has been shown to reduce viral spread.
 - Masks protect others from viral containing droplets that are expelled during speaking, breathing, coughing or sneezing.
- Everyone (even those who have been coming to campus as essential personnel) must take the required training on Learn@Work.
- Read and understand the plans for your laboratory, and follow instructions for use of common areas such as equipment rooms, rest rooms, elevators, break rooms.

At this point, we are not allowing resumption of in-person visits for human studies (including clinical trials) research (except for visits that provide a benefit to the participant). The plans for ramping up human studies research are still being developed.

See the OVCR COVID-19 website for specific guidance, checklists, signage, etc. for resuming research.
research.wustl.edu/covid19/

Sincerely,

David H. Perlmutter, MD
Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean

Jennifer Lodge, PhD
Vice Chancellor and Associate Dean for Research