

# Research Town Hall

COVID-19: Operational and Safety Requirements for  
UTA Research

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# C-19 Research Operation Plan

- Guiding Principles:
- **Principle 1.** Follow public health policies from governing authorities.
- **Principle 2.** Resume research operations in alignment with the executive UTA campus response to COVID-19.
- **Principle 3.** Protect the emotional and physical health and safety of our clinical and human research subjects, as well as the UTA research workforce.
- **Principle 4.** A PI may enforce stricter policies in spaces assigned to them as may be necessary for the type of research or operational environment. The requirements here represent the minimum level of compliance.

# C-19 Research Operation Plan

- **Guiding Principles Continued:**
  - **Principle 5.** Comply with ethical and legal requirements, as well as policies imposed by the sponsors of funded research as well as any flexibilities afforded due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **Principle 6.** Protect the careers of early stage researchers.
  - **Principle 7.** Conduct research activities to the extent that public health and logistical conditions permit, while remaining agile in anticipation of a resurgence of COVID-19.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- **Social Distancing Requirements:**
  - 6 foot separation between personnel.
  - [Masks are required](#) at all times in labs.
  - Sign-in/out logs are required for labs.
  - Implement shift work assignments and limit length of time of co-occupancy.
  - Continue as much as research remotely as possible.
  - No undergraduate researchers in labs until notified otherwise.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- **Lab Space Best Practices:**
  - Post map with maximum allowable occupancy of each area to maintain distancing requirements.
  - Use tape to help mark space distances and flow of traffic.
  - Wash hands before and after entry, use of instruments, or shared devices.
  - Consider heightened PPE for the type of activities to be conducted.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- **Equipment Best Practices:**

- Rearrange equipment and instruments to be 6 feet apart.
- Sanitize equipment before and after use.
- Do not share supplies among personnel if possible. Consider individual researcher lab tool sets.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

## ■ PPE and Sanitization Supplies:

- PIs are responsible for ensuring adequate and appropriate PPE for their research. Contact EH&S for assistance in identifying product suppliers for any [special PPE](#) required.
- PIs are responsible for [sanitization supplies](#).
- UTA will provide 2 washable face coverings for personnel – use the [EH&S Face Mask Request Form](#).
- Contact Amy Osborn ([Osborn@uta.edu](mailto:Osborn@uta.edu)) for the reopening/ramp-up of lab activity to ensure coordination with EH&S and central supply planning.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- Research Personnel Health:
- [Monitoring of C-19 symptoms](#) is required for all UTA personnel coming to work on campus.
  - Self assessment should be performed everyday and if any symptoms are realized, stay home and call your healthcare provider. Inform your supervisor.
- If diagnosed with C-19 or if you live with someone that has, stay home and complete UTA's [Close Contact or Personal Diagnosis Form](#). Inform your supervisor.



# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- **Laboratory Impact if C-19 is Diagnosed:**
  - If someone experiences symptoms of C-19 or tested positive, assume there is spread in your lab.
    - Call EH&S (x2185) to create a re-entry plan and provide necessary supplies and assistance to decontaminate space.
    - Maintain confidentiality of the infected individuals.
  - Be prepared for such an event and need to shutdown your laboratory.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- Contact Tracing:
  - Contact Tracing is important to help control new outbreaks and slow the spread of the disease.
  - If health authorities inform you that someone tested positive that you have had contact with, the CDC recommends self-isolation for 14 days.

# C-19 Research Toolkit

- [Refer to C-19 Research Webpage for Updates](#)
- [OMB issued flexibilities](#) to agencies for administrative and financial requirements on March 19 covering:
  - Allowability of costs normally not chargeable to awards (including salary for little to no benefit of a project).
  - Prior approval and procurement waivers
  - Extensions to reporting / projects
  - **Expire on June 19<sup>th</sup>.**
- [Flexible work assignment policy and procedures](#)

# C-19 Research Toolkit

- Suspending Research: For research conducted as part of a sponsored project, if a suspension of research activity is expected to result in:
  - The disengagement of the PI of 3 months or more to the research;
  - A Reduction of 25% or more in the time devoted to the project;
  - A change in scope of work;
  - A significant delay to complete the project on time; or
  - A significant increase in costs to complete the project.
- Contact: [Postaward@uta.edu](mailto:Postaward@uta.edu) to help coordinate with program officers.

# C-19 Research Toolkit

- Supplemental Funding:
- If there is a significant financial impact directly related to C-19 expenditures or the cost efficiency of research progress, may want to contact program officer.
- Consider supplemental funding to existing projects directly related to C-19 research or stopping the spread of the virus.
- Track C-19 expenditures

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- [In-Person Human Subject Research](#) (June 15<sup>th</sup>):
- In-Person HSR On/Off site must:
  - Maintain all social distancing requirements.
  - Avoid any direct physical contact.
  - Study may not exceed 2 hours.
  - Subject population limited to healthy adults age 18-65 and not at a higher risk to C-19.
  - All subjects will need to be prescreened via electronic means before campus arrival.
  - Research team members and subjects must have temperature checked before engaging in research activity.
  - Addendum to consent form: Special C-19 Information for Research Participants

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

- In-Person Human Subject Research (June 15<sup>th</sup>):
- Notification and Approvals:
  - Inform your Associate Dean of Research or Dean if not applicable for college-level/resource considerations.
  - Inform [regulatoryservices@uta.edu](mailto:regulatoryservices@uta.edu) for tracking purposes.
    - IRB approval will be necessary if your protocol requires modification due to C-19 related requirements.
  - Off-campus approval of site/location is required. Must follow off-campus site requirements in addition to UTA HSR requirements.
- Additional phases of in-person HSR will be assessed based on risk, available health data, and UTA or other governmental requirements.

# C-19 Researcher Toolkit

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe.

Questions?



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