

Re-Start Laboratory Procedures Announced

May 20, 2020 – UCF announced its plan to ramp up research in the laboratories across all campuses today.

In a campus-wide email, Elizabeth Klonoff, the Vice President for Research, outlined the basics every research lab team must follow and six steps to get access to their labs beginning May 21.

Only researchers and their teams who need access to their laboratories are eligible to return after completing all the steps. The plan is not intended for faculty who want to return to their offices to work.

“If you can continue to work remotely, you should continue to do so,” Klonoff said in the email.

The plan keeps the safety of researchers as its focus while providing a way to get them back in their labs as quickly as possible. The plan also provides a way to ramp up and ramp down lab operations if the COVID-19 pandemic makes it necessary.

All the steps and procedures can be found at [a website](#) dedicated to the research ramp up amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The task force continues to work on a tailored plan for researchers involved in face-to-face Human Subject Research because of the additional challenges. Current procedures announced in April remains in place until further notice.

[A task force](#) made up of 15 faculty researchers from across disciplines, administrators, Environmental Health, and Safety officials and others developed the plan after meeting for several weeks. The group created [guiding principles](#), which kept faculty researches at the heart of planning, studied what other major research institutions (including other universities in Florida and nationwide) were doing, and held open meetings with stakeholders.

Klonoff asked researchers to continue to pay attention to their email for additional updates from the Office of Research. Other emails about a broader return to campus plan, including policies about safety during COVID-19 and enforcement will be coming soon.

“Rest assured we didn’t create this system to make life difficult,” Klonoff said in the email. “Re-starting research is a unique challenge for all of us, and there are bound to be hiccups. I ask you for your continued patience as we move through this process. We created this system to keep you safe and let us all get back to one of our core missions at UCF – conducting research that makes an impact. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions.”