**RESEARCH   
Phase 1 Return to Work**

**RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

* Reduced level (conducted on campus)
  + Limited to:
    - Absolutely necessary for student graduation, required maintenance, and to meet required milestones for externally sponsored programs
  + Caveats
    - Human research with face-to-face contact is on hold (expected thru at least Phase 1)
    - Researchers can conduct new lab-based activity that can be completed or shutdown/ceased in one or two days (does not include human research with face-to-face contact)
      * Exemptions must be approved at the department level, sent to the college for approval, and then to Matthew Mench, interim vice chancellor for research, ([mmench@utk.edu](mailto:mmench@utk.edu)) for approval
* Phase 1 return to work plan includes research labs
  + Four departments in CEHHS have “research labs:” NUTR, CFS, PH, KRSS
  + Personnel in research labs do not need to complete exemption forms to come to campus but must complete health safety plans by 5/13/20 (one plan for each room in lab – allows for documentation of who is on campus and where) and remove hibernation signs
  + <https://research.utk.edu/covid-19-research-faq/guidelines-for-increasing-on-campus-research-activity/guidelines-for-developing-a-heath-safety-plan-for-laboratory-research-and-on-site-scholarship-and-creative-activity/>
    - Contains a web-platform for health safety plan
  + <https://hr.utk.edu/important-forms/>
    - App and form for needed PPE for COVID-19
* Field research may continue as long as guidelines for reducing risk and exposure to COVID-19 are followed and do not conflict with current state, federal and international travel restrictions
  + Field research activities, including travel, should be suspended in localities that have declared a shelter in place order in response to COVID-19 community spread. Planned routes of travel to and from field locations should be developed to either circumvent these areas or minimize encounters with the general public and local authorities while transiting through.
* Personnel conducting field research should consult with their department head and associate dean for research to decide which studies are necessary and which studies can be postponed
  + Complete a request
  + <https://research.utk.edu/covid-19-research-faq/guidelines-for-increasing-on-campus-research-activity/guidelines-for-developing-a-heath-safety-plan-for-laboratory-research-and-on-site-scholarship-and-creative-activity/>
* Proposal/grant submissions are continuing
* IRB is reviewing changes in needed protocols
* <https://research.utk.edu/covid-19-research-faq/>

**COMMUNICATION CHANGES**

* Interim Vice Chancellor of Research (VCR) communicates to college Associate Deans of Research (ADRs)
* ADRs communicate to Department Heads
* Department Heads communicate to faculty
* Faculty in CEHHS may not be receiving messages from VCR

Alternative methods of communication?

**MOVING SCHOLARSHIP FORWARD**

* A pivot is better than a stall
  + How can your human subjects protocol be moved to a remote protocol?
  + Consider other forms of scholarship
    - Systematic reviews, meta-analysis, secondary data analysis