Office of the Vice Provost for Research

To: Penn Research Community
From: Dawn Bonnell, Vice Provost for Research
Date: March 12, 2020
Re: **Research Activities in the Upcoming Weeks**

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Yesterday the university announced major changes to the final weeks of the semester, including that Spring Break will be extended and most student instruction will move online.   In addition, students on spring break are asked not to return to campus, and students on campus are asked to depart by March 15.

Although instruction will occur remotely and many students will be off campus, this does not represent a suspension of operations on campus. Faculty, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows will have access to laboratories, offices, research group spaces and meeting spaces. Research facilities will be operating. And the offices supporting research are functioning normally.

As always, our primary concern is the health and well-being of the community. Good hygiene including hand washing, sufficient rest and hydration, and social distancing should be emphasized in labs as well as in offices. Any who are ill or who have been exposed to the virus should not come to campus until they are better and/or have completed quarantine.

Some practices that support social distancing while carrying out research include the following:

- Those writing papers or dissertations or conducting other non-lab research activities can work at home, reducing the number of people commuting and in the lab.
- Research activities might be coordinated such that essential functions can be managed with fewer researchers in the lab.
- Meetings should be restricted to small groups.
- Meet remotely when appropriate; the university and Penn provide a suite of technologies to support virtual collaboration.

Our website will continue to post comprehensive and updated guidance regarding research practices as the coronavirus situation continues to evolve. https://research.upenn.edu/resources/coronavirus/