Research Reactivation Phases
Version 2.0 (June 26, 2020)

Described below are phases of activity that will be used to guide the reactivation of research on campus by Yale faculty, staff, and trainees (graduate students, postgrads, postdocs). These phases are designed to allow for the gradual resumption of research activity across the entire campus with appropriate public health protections as pandemic risks wane (Phase 1 -> Phase 2 -> Phase 3). They will also be used to tighten campus access if increased risks re-emerge (Phase 3 -> Phase 2 -> Phase 1). Shifting between phases will be triggered by university administration with guidance from public health experts. In summary, the phases are:

- **Phase 1: Highly Restricted Access After 6/1/20**
- **Phase 2: Restricted Access After 7/20/20**
- **Phase 3: Less Restricted**

It is important to note that the university conditions and requirements described below are based on current public health guidance and State reopening rules. The conditions and requirements may change over time as the state of virus transmission evolves and more evidence-based mitigation measures emerge.

**Phase 1 – Highly Restricted and Research Access Limited**

If campus access is *absolutely essential* for the research activity to be carried out, it can be done on campus, with strict public health precautions. If the work can be done remotely (e.g., from home), it *must* continue to be performed remotely. Time on campus is limited to the minimum necessary to perform the research. Strict physical distancing, face masks, symptom monitoring and other strong safety measures for limiting virus spread are in place.

**Phase 2 – Restricted Access, All Forms of Research Permitted**

All forms of research activity permitted in a researcher’s primary working space, such as an office or lab, even if the activity could be performed off campus, so long as physical distancing, reduced occupancy, and other measures for limiting virus spread are adhered to. Access to offices and other campus facilities for activity that could be performed from home is permitted, but with appropriate safety measures, including limits related to physical distancing and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as restrictions on in-person gatherings enforced. Certain forms of on-campus work, including laboratory research and access to specialized facilities, requires authorized safety plans. Working remotely (from home) remains strongly encouraged.

**Phase 3 – Less Restricted Operations**

In conformance with prevailing State of CT and Yale public health guidance, an expansion of on campus activities is permitted, including in-person gatherings with limits on event size. Restrictions on activities due to physical distancing, dedensification of campus facilities, heightened personal hygiene and use of PPE may remain in place, depending on public health guidance at the time.
Research Reactivation Phases

Phase 1 – Highly Restricted and Research Access Limited
Adjustments may be made to these measures in accordance with ongoing federal, state, and local public health guidance.

Overall restrictions:
• If research can be done remotely, it must continue to be done remotely.
• Research that requires access to campus or local field sites because it is the only place that work can be done is possible, with explicit permission.
• Gradual resumption of access to physical library collections, beginning with collection scanning and a book pick-up service.
• Outside visitors for seminars, colloquia, and other short term visits are prohibited.
• No in-person group meetings, seminars, colloquia.
• Do not congregate in common areas (lunch rooms, meeting rooms, lounges), and disinfect surfaces before and after every use.

Public Health precautions:
• All trainees, faculty and staff must monitor daily for symptoms of COVID-19 using a Daily Health Check through a web form or a downloadable mobile application. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home and contact their health care provider.
• If ill, stay home and seek medical advice from your health care provider or Yale Health.
• All trainees, faculty and staff should exercise heightened personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.
• Cloth face coverings should be worn in all public spaces.
• Virus testing performed following guidance set by Yale and local, State, and Federal government public health agencies, which may be adjusted as conditions change.
• All trainees, faculty and staff must complete training on COVID-19 health and safety practices before returning to campus. A link to the necessary training will be sent in the near future.

Work precautions:
• Physical distancing:
  o Measures will be employed to limit the density of people (e.g., trainees/faculty/staff) in research environments. When more than one person occupies a room, physical distancing is required, with at least a 6 foot separation between people, and no more than 50% of normal occupancy. When practicable, one person per research bay. Areas used/occupied by a given investigator in the lab should be clearly delineated and disinfected by the investigator before and after each use.
• Temporal distancing:
  o Shift work may be used to limit the density of people occupying a work area on campus at a given time. For instance, early morning and late afternoon 6-
hour work shifts with gaps between shifts would facilitate physical distancing practices and permit greater utilization of on-campus research facilities.

- Pre-existing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for the lab/research environment remain in place. Otherwise, while in the laboratory, trainees, faculty, and staff are required to wear a surgical face mask. In general, N95 respirators and medical grade masks are reserved for healthcare workers. Cloth face coverings are appropriate only for public spaces.
- Lab staff are responsible for disinfecting surfaces and equipment in labs, following EHS’s cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
- Heightened cleaning and disinfection of common areas performed by custodial staff.

**Registration to access campus for research:**
- All faculty are required to register themselves and their trainees and staff in order to access campus for research.
- For shared research environments, such as labs:
  - Faculty propose safety plans for individual labs and field sites as well as laboratory personnel (trainees, staff), which are registered through EHS Integrator. Faculty safety plans are reviewed and approved by Department Chair/Center Director (or their faculty designee), cognizant Dean and the Provost’s office. Notice of approval and authorization to return to campus will be issued by email through EHS Integrator.
  - Department Chair/Center Director articulates safety plans for department common areas such as local core facilities (e.g., glass wash, shared equipment rooms) and common lounges and bathrooms. These plans are reviewed and approved by the cognizant Dean and the Provost’s office.
- For individual research environments, such as offices:
  - Faculty planning on sustained research in an individually-occupied office because it is the only place that work can be done (e.g., on-campus access required for sensitive data sets) must propose research plans through EHS Integrator for review and approval by cognizant Dean and the Provost’s office. Notice of approval will be issued by email through EHS Integrator.
- International travel is prohibited by Yale policy, and non-essential domestic travel should be postponed or avoided, consistent with Yale and CDC guidelines. Local research and field work is permissible if the local travel and field work can be performed safely and appropriate sample handling and other behaviors abide by all prevailing distancing and other University, State, and Federal safety guidelines locally and at the field site. These guidelines may change quickly, depending on conditions locally and at the field site.
  - Faculty are required to register their domestic travel and field work plans through EHS Integrator, and include specifics describing how the work can be performed in accordance with public health guidance and that appropriate measures are being taken to minimize the possibility of reintroducing the virus to our local setting or that of the field, and include sufficient details about shut
Public health precautions:
• Every individual that accesses campus must complete online COVID-19: Return to Yale Campus training prior to returning to campus.
• Each person who comes to campus is required to conduct a Daily Health Check using a web form or a downloadable mobile application. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home and contact their health care provider.
• Face coverings must be worn at all times, including during the entry and exit of all indoor common spaces and public areas on campus. In individual offices, when solely occupied with the door closed, face coverings may be removed.
• All, faculty, staff, and trainees should exercise heightened personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.
• Individuals must practice 6-foot physical distancing at all times when on campus. All shared spaces must also be limited to no more than 50% of normal occupancy.
• Bathrooms are temporarily restricted to one occupant at a time. New signage has been placed to remind users of this restriction. Electric and hand dryers have been replaced with paper towels.
• Use of community refrigerators, microwaves, toasters, coffee makers, and other appliances is strongly discouraged.

Work precautions:
• Physical distancing:
  o Measures will be employed to limit the density of people (e.g., trainees/faculty/staff) in an office or research environments. When more than one person occupies a room, physical distancing is required, with at least a 6-foot separation between people, and no more than 50% of normal occupancy.
  o When practicable, one person per research bay or office. Areas used/occupied by a given researcher in the lab or office should be clearly delineated and disinfected by the researcher before and after each use.
• Temporal distancing:
  o Shift work may be used to limit the density of people occupying a single work area on campus at a given time. For instance, early morning and late afternoon 6-hour work shifts with gaps between shifts would facilitate physical distancing practices and permit greater utilization of on-campus research facilities.
• Pre-existing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for the lab/research environment remain in place. Otherwise, while in the laboratory, trainees, faculty, and staff are required to wear a surgical face mask. In general, N95 respirators and medical grade masks are reserved for healthcare workers. Cloth face coverings are appropriate only for public spaces.
• Lab staff are responsible for disinfecting surfaces and equipment in labs, following EHS’s cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
• Heightened cleaning and disinfection of common areas performed by custodial staff.

Returning to campus for research:
• All faculty, staff and trainees are required to complete COVID-19 training before returning to campus.
  o Faculty with academic or research programs that require the use of specialty lab facilities, perform field research or human subjects research, must develop individual safety plans and use the EHS Integrator system to apply for authorization to return to campus to use these facilities. Those research activities approved for Phase 1 research reactivation are (automatically) approved to continue in Phase 2.
Field research restrictions may be loosened relative to Phase 1; details are forthcoming.

Human subjects research restrictions may be loosened relative to Phase 1; details are forthcoming.

- For non-laboratory spaces, such as offices, the relevant school, division or department will communicate the local safety plan for occupying these spaces.

**Phase 3 – Less Restricted Operations**

Adjustments may be made to these measures in accordance with ongoing federal, state, and local public health guidance.

- Posted Yale, state, and federal guidelines concerning physical distancing, PPE, and symptom monitoring will be enforced. These guidelines likely less restrictive than those in place during Phase 2.
- Domestic and international travel will conform to Yale, state and federal guidelines.
- On-campus research by undergraduates, new postgraduate and graduate students, consistent with laboratory safety plans and the school policies, may be allowed.
- Seminars/colloquia with visitors may be allowed, but in conformation with posted Yale guidelines and some limits on the total size of these events likely to remain.
- Some gatherings permitted, but limits on total size may remain.
- Relaxed cleaning/disinfectant regimes.
Note: Phase 0 – Critical Research Operations Only are the conditions that existed as the COVID-19 pandemic spread (03.2020 – 05.2020). These measures may need to be employed again if pandemic conditions worsen substantially as part of a research ramp down.

Phase 0 – Critical Research Operations Only

- **Only** critical research activities allowed on campus.
- Registration for critical research and campus access granted by petition of the PI and vetted by the Department Chair, cognizant Dean, and the Provost’s office.
- Research kept to the minimum necessary to prevent catastrophic loss of experiments or critical research on COVID-19. Noncritical research performed remotely or put in hibernation.
- Associated on campus research facilities and core operations (e.g., Animal Research Facility, Gene Sequencing Facility) function at the minimum level necessary to support critical research and to maintain research infrastructure for the eventual reactivation of campus research operations.
- If research can be done remotely (at home), it **must** be done remotely.
- Travel for field work permitted only in exceptional cases for critical research and upon specific petition by the PI to Department Chairs, cognizant Dean, and the Provost’s office. Such field work must fall under the above definition of critical research, and travel and work must be conducted in accordance with all local (i.e., at the field site) and state COVID-19 regulations, and the other requirements specified here.
- In-person human subjects research not permitted, except if it qualifies for a critical research exception (e.g., ongoing therapeutic trials, clinical research on COVID-19).
- Physical distancing:
  - Measures must be employed to limit the density of people (e.g., trainees/faculty/staff) in research environments. When more than one person occupies a room, physical distancing is required, with at least a 6 foot separation between people. When practicable, one person per research bay. Areas used/occupied by a given investigator in the lab should be clearly delineated and disinfected before another investigator occupies that area.
- Temporal distancing:
  - Shift work can be employed to limit the density of people occupying a work area on campus at a given time. For instance, early morning and late afternoon 6-hour work shifts with gaps between shifts would facilitate physical distancing practices and permit greater utilization of on-campus research facilities.
- PPE requirements. Existing PPE requirements for the lab/research being conducted remain in place. Otherwise, a water-resistant face mask is required, which EHS can provide. In general, N95 respirators and surgical masks are reserved for healthcare workers. Specialized PPE may be required for COVID-19 research, as specified by EHS. Cloth face coverings are appropriate only for public spaces.
• **Strong cleaning/disinfectant regimens.** Lab staff are responsible for disinfecting equipement and surfaces in labs. Heightened common area cleaning by custodial staff.

• All faculty, staff, and trainees should self-monitor frequently for [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.yale.edu). If ill, stay home and seek medical advice from your health care provider or [Yale Health](https://www.yale.edu).

• Virus testing of those working on campus to the greatest degree reasonably practicable.