



## MEMORANDUM

To: Research Restart Steering Committee  
From: Lori Ferris, Associate Vice-President, Research (Oversight and Compliance)  
Date: January 25, 2022  
Re: On-Campus Research Spaces

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The University has announced a gradual increase to in-person activities on all three campuses as of February 7th, 2022. I am writing to provide an update on the plans for a phased approach to increase on-campus research activity.

While we are planning for this phased approach, we will leave the operational processes and decisions to the divisions and campuses recognizing that local contexts must be taken into consideration by divisional/unit leadership, including general building operations to best mitigate congestion, line-ups, etc.

We remain vigilant about evolving public health conditions and continue to adjust and adapt our plans based on the guidance of our community of experts.

### **STARTING FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**

As of February 7, 2022, all onsite research spaces may move from 65% capacity limits to normal occupancy levels as long as 2 m distancing is maintained. Where physical distancing cannot be maintained, please contact EHS for an assessment if you do not already have an approved safety plan that includes the appropriate risk mitigation measures necessary for your lab specific tasks, which cannot consistently maintain

physical distancing (e.g., modification of activity, additional personal protective equipment).

As before, laboratories should continue to be prepared for the possibility of staffing disruptions and shortages as a result of the Omicron variant including having contingency plans in place for all critical experiments and equipment maintenance.

Those conducting on-campus research must follow the academic division's current processes and other information provided by the division concerning this change. Divisional processes are based on the University of Toronto Approach for Research Recovery and Adaptation and the COVID-19 General Workplace Guidelines (GWG).

## **PLANNED FUTURE CHANGES - FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> 2022**

We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, and predicated upon permitted public health directives, on February 28<sup>th</sup> those on-campus academic research spaces that meet the definition of "instructional space" (per the COVID-19 General Workplace Guideline) may operate at full capacity without 2m distancing, as long as appropriate masks are worn in addition to any other applicable PPE. Another memo will follow accordingly regarding the university's position on this point.

## **OTHER RESEARCH**

There are no new announcements at this time concerning human participant research, off-campus or international research. Please continue to follow the guidance here.