MEMORANDUM

To: Deans and Associate Deans for Research

From: Elizabeth (Betsy) Cantwell, Senior Vice President for Research & Innovation

CC: Senior Leadership Team, Sangita Pawar, John O’Neil, Lori Schultz

Date: June 1, 2020

Re: Restarting Research at the University of Arizona

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO DEPARTMENT HEADS/DIRECTORS AND FACULTY

In the past two months, the research community has come a very long way in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the changes it has brought to the University of Arizona and the world around us. You have met the challenge as we created a process to prioritize, define, and maintain essential research and implemented creative solutions to moving work online in an effort to keep everyone safe.

Even as research activities were ramping down, we already were thinking about the process of safely ramping back up. We have codified this process in the Research Restart Plan, which is available online. The plan represents a six-phase approach to restarting research on campus. The research phase the university is in at any given time will be determined by RII using a combination of factors and in consultation with the new Incident Command Unit and the Associate Deans for Research (ADRs). Researchers should prepare for the likelihood of a local rebound of infections that may result in a return to more restrictive mitigation measures and physical distancing for periods of time.

Researchers will need to submit a Restarting Research Checklist (attached PDF; the checklist link will be on the Restart Plan page) through their college-designated approver, the ADR. The checklist is designed to help researchers think through the steps they can take to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, while also managing the traditional risks of reopening/restarting laboratories and equipment that were temporarily closed, and research activities that were completely suspended. Your college will communicate the process and expectations for completing the checklist, and how review at the department and college level will happen. Your ADR is your first line of defense in answering PI’s checklist process questions since the process will be specific to your college.
Upon approval, the ADR will file the checklist with RII for confirmation and validation. The checklist applies to research and scholarly activity in all university units—every college, department, program, center, institute, and museum.

Laboratories operating under approved waivers can continue to perform that essential research while they submit for an approved checklist to expand research operations.

All research that is now and can continue to be 100% conducted in a remote manner without face-to-face interaction is automatically exempt from this guidance and may continue. Please contact Lori Schultz at lschultz@arizona.edu if you have questions about when a checklist is appropriate for remote work transitioning to on-site work.

Your health and safety, and that of your colleagues, staff, and students, are among our top priorities. All personnel who will be on campus in order to perform research must follow CDC guidelines of physical distancing, handwashing/disinfecting, and wearing a face covering.