MEMORANDUM

To: Deans, Associate Deans for Research, Directors, and Department Heads

From: Betsy Cantwell

CC: Sangita Pawar, John O'Neil, Lori Schultz

Date: December 16, 2020

RE: Continued Mitigation Strategies to Ensure Safety Amid COVID-19

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL RESEARCH FACULTY

With COVID-19 case numbers rising throughout Arizona and the country, please continue to exercise caution as we head into the end of the semester and holiday season. The next few weeks will be critical in slowing the spread of the coronavirus. For your safety and for the well-being of those around you:

- Avoid travel and holiday gatherings with people outside your household.
- Continue physical distancing, using face coverings, and hand washing.
- Maintain reduced density in your workspace(s).
- Continue to work remotely where and when possible, in accordance with University of Arizona Work from Home guidance.

Your commitment to following guidelines and your steady vigilance have enabled the safe continuation of research efforts for nearly nine months. We must not let that determination waiver now.

We remain in Research Restart Phase 3, but work should not be expanded without considering the risk to both your teams and to the community. Please review these mitigation strategies to ensure the continued adherence to CDC and other guidelines:

- Delaying or prioritizing work
  - Priorities remain:
    - experiments and/or field work where a delay would result in loss of data/research results, specimen, or animals
    - research on COVID-19 across disciplines
• graduating students or early-career faculty whose graduation or term of appointment is in spring 2021
• completion of grants where the funding agency has not granted leniency on the end date or deliverables schedule

• Increasing remote work and communications plans
• Reducing the number of personnel present in one room at any time
• Staggering personnel schedules
• Adopting new protocols for physical distancing/separation (e.g., taped areas, plexiglass)
• Augmenting disinfectant cleaning procedures
• Updating and/or paying more attention to personnel training/acknowledgments

If you have not completed a Research Restart Checklist and you will be on campus, please complete one now.

While every reasonable effort will be made to keep the research enterprise moving forward, investigators are strongly encouraged to develop a contingency plan if pandemic conditions shift and require significant changes in operations (e.g., curfews, shelter-in-place orders, etc.). Continue to monitor the university’s Coronavirus webpage and the Research COVID-19 webpage for updates, FAQs, and guidance. Your Associate Dean for Research is a further resource.

Your help, flexibility, and commitment to safety as we continue to navigate this pandemic is greatly appreciated. I am enormously proud to be associated with the University of Arizona and all of you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday,
Elizabeth “Betsy” Cantwell, PhD, MBA
Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation