

Dear Academic Deans,

Since Cornell's research reactivation plan was announced on May 22, 2020, 579 PIs have been approved for research and scholarly activities, and 3,375 research personnel are currently pursuing research projects in appropriately scheduled shifts. The diligence and care demonstrated by our research community, in collaboration with the critical support of facilities and EHS personnel, has made this a successful re-start and we wish to congratulate faculty, staff, and students on their efforts to date.

As we consider the approval of further research and scholarly activities, questions have been raised with respect to the percent of research capacity allowed. As we have gained experience with the process, we have learned that observing the six-foot minimum separation requirement at all times will inevitably ensure compliance with overall occupancy limits. This separation, as well as the requirement to wear a mask in spaces occupied by more than one person, should govern plans to increase laboratory or studio activities. As always, we emphasize that work that does not require university facilities be done remotely.

Going forward, submitted research reactivation plans need not reference specific capacity limits, but the occupancy plan should assure that all aspects of work can be achieved while maintaining six feet of separation between personnel at all times. All other requirements remain in effect.

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