Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Research

June 29, 2020

Dear Chairs and Directors,

This week’s letter contains updates on the following:

1. Lab access for visitors
2. Outdoor home meetings
3. Humanities and arts guidance
4. Travel policy for field research
5. Clinical Human Subjects guidance for Stage 2

Lab access for visitors

Non-matriculated students (other than Stanford postdocs) and other visitors are not generally allowed into labs at this stage of the research return. However, we recognize that those who have already been formally appointed as visiting scholars, visiting postdocs, or visiting students and are at Stanford may need occasional, one-time access to a lab. Decisions about whether currently appointed or newly-extended visitors can enter lab spaces should be made by the School, Department, or Institute, that is, wherever Onsite Role Management System decisions about essential on-site employees are usually made by your unit.

For Visitors and other nonmatriculated students who are currently appointed:
• Bechtel International Center and Graduate Admissions staff will not be asked to do work for nonmatriculated students for the remainder of spring and summer (through September 1).
• Nonmatriculated students and other visitors will not be allowed into labs until Stage 3 of return to research. (Exceptions to allow visitors already here earlier access can no be made through your schools usual approval process; priority should be given to students enrolled in Stanford degree programs and postdoc scholars appointed at Stanford.)
• Requests for extensions of current appointments must be carefully considered in light of the information above about the staged return to research and concern about remote visitors.

Outdoor home meetings

Some faculty members have asked whether they can hold meetings with members of their research teams in the outdoor spaces of their homes. To accommodate this, we have created guidelines for outdoor small group meetings at faculty homes and at other locations where the group can distance from one another and from others in the area. Schools and departments can approve these meetings on a case-by-case basis, prioritizing work that cannot be done effectively through remote collaboration. Faculty should record the meeting on their Stanford calendar as they do for regular meetings in order to comply with contact-tracing requirements. The calendar should include the names of meeting attendees and the general outdoor area where the group will be meeting. The full guidelines have been posted in the Research Recovery Handbook.

Humanities and arts guidance

The recently formed working group on the humanities and arts has been focusing its attention on capturing the range and scope of research activities in the humanities and arts, understanding how the pandemic is affecting research methods and outcomes, assessing risk levels for different activities, and
considering short- and long-term strategies for risk mitigation. The 12 members of the committee, which is chaired by Stephen Hinton (Music), are listed in the Research Recovery Handbook.

The group's working definition of research in the humanities and arts covers a wide continuum of activities, from single-author publication-oriented scholarship at one end to public exhibitions and performance events at the other. Research methods are correspondingly diverse, including the study of documents conducted by individuals in libraries and archives both on and off campus, lab-based digital experiments by research teams, and creative studio work. Outcomes usually involve some form of public presentation, from conferences to concerts. Some of this research overlaps with other parts of the university; some is unique to the humanities and arts cluster; and some is quite specific to a particular unit or department.

In the coming weeks the working group will be processing the information it has been gathering for inclusion, where appropriate, in the Research Recovery Handbook. Chairs and directors are encouraged to solicit any recommendations, queries or concerns from their units, and to forward this information to the working group (email: shinton@stanford.edu).

Field research approval process
An approval process for field research is in place and is detailed in the Research Recovery Handbook. Off-campus research should be registered in MyTrips.

Clinical Human Subjects guidance for Stage 2
Beginning in Stage 2, COVID-19-related basic research will no longer need approval from the Dean of Research Essential Research Functions Review Committee. This research must still receive approval from the normal relevant panels, such as IRB, APLAC and APB, prior to initiation of work, and must also comply with all guidance outlined in this document. COVID-19 research involving Human Subjects must still obtain approval from the COVID-19 Clinical Research Review Panel (CCRRP); contact Pooneh.Fouladi@stanford.edu for details.

The guidelines for in-person, human subject clinical research in the School of Medicine during Stage 2 still require that non-essential, in-person patient or human subject visits be postponed until further notice. Research that can be conducted virtually should continue virtually. Some clinical trials and research may continue with appropriate approvals, such as clinical trials that provide critical therapeutic support for our patients. Detailed guidance from the Senior Associate Dean of Research in the School of Medicine, Dr. Ruth O'Hara, is provided here.

Lastly, we want to acknowledge that cases have been rising in recent days across the state of California, including in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. We urge everybody, whether you are coming to campus or not, to take precautions and stay safe. We hope that you are all well.

Stay safe and be well,
Kam, Stacey, Tim, and Russell

Kam Moler, Vice Provost and Dean of Research; Professor of Applied Physics and of Physics
Stacey Bent, Vice Provost of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs; Jagdeep and Roshni Singh Professor of Engineering

Tim Stearns, Chair of the Faculty Senate; Frank Lee and Carol Hall Professor of Biology and Professor of Genetics

Russell Furr, Associate Vice Provost for Environmental Health and Safety