

## Research Continuity and Resilience - Re-Engaging OSU's Research Enterprise

### APPROACH

Research, scholarship, and innovation activities are critical to the overall mission of Oregon State University. The first goal of the university's Strategic Plan 4.0 focuses on establishing "OSU as a leader in conducting research, producing knowledge, and generating innovations that contribute to addressing global grand challenges." Given this university priority, planning activities related to the impacts of COVID-19 must account for the unique needs of the university's research, scholarship, and innovation activities. Although much of the research, scholarship, and innovation at OSU is carried out in a decentralized fashion, the unique nature of the current public health crisis will require increased levels of coordination and cooperation. This will ensure the continuity and resilience of the research enterprise in facing current and future challenges.

Oregon State University has convened a task force representing diverse sectors of OSU's research enterprise. Their charge is to articulate core values and provide a framework to guide coordinated, responsible, and effective decisions for OSU research. The task force will consider all OSU research conducted at university facilities, on-campus and spread across Oregon, work in the field or on-location, nationally and internationally. It will also consider work with humans and other living subjects.

The approach to re-engaging OSU's research enterprise will be consistent with the following values:

- HEALTH: Our community's health comes first
- VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: Decisions about research should acknowledge the impact on the most vulnerable populations
- VALUING ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR RESEARCH MISSION: We support to the fullest extent possible all persons who participate in our research enterprise
- STUDENT SUCCESS: Research is integral to the educational process of OSU students at all levels
- ACCOUNTABILITY AND COLLABORATION: Decisions about research should prioritize the judicious and collaborative use of resources
- FLEXIBILITY: Decisions about research should recognize complexity and allow for creativity and flexibility
- MISSION OF OSU: Institutional integrity is our guiding mission

Additionally, the task force will consult with OSU's research leadership across the university, colleges, and centers and institutes as well as policies of other institutions. The Task Force will gather information regarding best practices (what worked, what did not) regarding the COVID-19 response ramp-down, along with specific needs to inform the framework for research re-engagement.

The task force will establish the framework that will be used to:

- Guide a phased and prioritized approach (similar to a color-coded alert system) that can be used to ramp up and ramp down activities, as needed, to nimbly react to changing conditions.

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- This phased approach will take into account logistics and supply chain considerations related to locales, needed supplies, and personnel (e.g., hiring, types of staffing) during each transition between phases.
- Individual laboratories and facilities can define activities relevant to each level and what transitions between levels entail.
- Be responsive to future disruptions to and complexities regarding the University's research enterprise.

The task force anticipates delivering the framework in stages, with the initial guidance provided no later than May 15, 2020, and a complete framework provided no later than May 22, 2020. The framework generated by this task force may be subject to revision based on feedback from implementation and in response to changes in public health, higher education, and our community.