

Dear DoP Researchers,

We want to clarify the implications of the recent enhanced provincial restrictions on research operations at ACH. The message from the University VPR (below) outlines a number of temporary changes for research conducted in UCalgary facilities. Provincial restrictions are in place until at least May 25, 2021. Here's how they impact research operations at ACH:

Work from home

All UCalgary faculty and staff must work from home – except under the following conditions:

- ACH access is required to use tools and equipment
- Work involves secure data and confidential information
- On-site preparation and attendance are required to deliver services to faculty, students, staff and the public

In all cases where work is being performed on site, an approved COVID workplan must be in place as per the [ACH research relaunch strategy](#). **Please review your workplan to make sure that staff who will be conducting work on-site are listed, including new summer students or trainees.**

Summer students

As per the VPR's message, on-boarding of any **new** undergraduate summer students should be suspended until at least May 25th. Summer students who have completed their on-boarding should follow the same guidelines for working at home as other staff members. We have [remote on-boarding](#) steps outlined specifically for ACH.

Research participants

All in-person human participant research should be suspended until at least May 25, 2021, with the exception of studies where suspension could adversely affect the health of participants, or where time-dependent follow-up assessments must occur. In-person research visits to ACH may continue under the aforementioned circumstances, in accordance with approved COVID workplans.

Please reach out if you need help navigating research operations at this time.

The DoP Research Team

Dr. Adam Kirton, Deputy Head (Research)
Nicole Romanow, Sr. Consultant, Child Health Research
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Below is the message sent by the VPR earlier this week.

Message not displaying properly? Try the [web version](#).



This message contains important information about research operations.

Please refer to the [COVID-19 Response: Guidance for Researchers](#) website for updates.

Impact of new restrictions on research

Dear colleagues,

Earlier today, the Provost shared an update about the impact of new government COVID-19 restrictions for our campuses. Please be sure to read that message if you have not already done so.

Please take a moment to read through the following about how these restrictions will impact the research enterprise:

Work from home

Effective today, the new provincial restrictions call for Albertans to work from home. All UCalgary faculty, staff, and students **must** follow this instruction to work from home immediately, except under specified conditions:

- Access is required to use tools and equipment
- Work involves secure data and confidential information
- On-site preparation and attendance are required to deliver critical services to the campus community

Anyone spending time on campus must meet one of the above conditions, AND be included on an approved Workspace Safety Plan.

All existing Workspace Safety Plans should be updated to ensure that the correct staff are listed on the plan. Please be sure that staff understand the safety protocols and acknowledge the Workspace Safety Plan.

Importantly, the university will not reopen the research exemptions system at this time. This is because the standing Workspace Safety Plan system has supplanted those prior exemptions.

The COVID situation in Alberta is concerning at present, and our university community must comply with the provincial measures. I encourage the research community to be particularly vigilant at this time, and to only conduct work on campus that cannot be completed from home. This means that we should only be on campus for the portions of our work that require campus infrastructure, and then return home to do writing, analysis, administrative tasks, etc.

Undergraduate Student Research

The University of Calgary recognizes the value of the student research, scholarship, and training experiences that typically takes place over the spring and summer. We know that this week many student researchers may have started onboarding for their summer research. However, the new provincial restrictions have led to the following decisions:

- On-campus research and onboarding for **new** undergraduate research students/trainees is suspended until at least May 25, 2021, and
- **Existing** undergraduate student researchers who have already been fully onboarded/trained for work are permitted in the context of the conditions outlined in the 'work from home' section above.

This does not prevent you from completing hiring processes for students through HR. If they are unable to begin training to conduct lab work, we encourage you to use this time for at-home tasks such as readings and other preparations for their summer work.

Graduate Student Research

The Faculty of Graduate Studies recognizes that graduate student progress in research and scholarly activities has been greatly hindered over the course of the pandemic. However student safety, as well as adherence to the provincial regulations, is paramount.

- Graduate students are allowed in campus labs and creative spaces to engage in research and scholarly activities critical to their academic or research progression where access to animals, materials, subjects, or infrastructure is required.
- What can be done at home (writing, data analysis, etc.), should be done at home.
- All graduate students on campus should be listed on the Workspace Safety Plans for each space and must follow guidelines.

- Graduate students are not obliged to be in research spaces if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Research with human participants

All in-person human participant research should be suspended until at least May 25, 2021, with the exception of studies where suspension could adversely affect the health of participants, or where time-dependent follow-up assessments must occur. Protocols should be modified or delayed wherever possible to limit personal contacts, laboratory visits or trips into clinics and hospitals. [Human ethics guidance](#) is available on the Research website.

Animal care training

In-person Animal Care orientation/training will be suspended until at least May 25, 2021. If you are affected by this change you will be contacted directly with more information.

Workspace Safety Plans

In all cases where work is being performed on campus, an approved Workspace Safety Plan must be in place, must be acknowledged by all those included in the plan, and all must comply with the safety measures listed in those plans.

Workspace Safety Plan process

Please see the [step-by-step instructions for the Workspace Safety Plan](#).

Contact campus.reentry@ucalgary.ca if you have questions about the Workspace Safety Plan that are not addressed in the instructions.

We recognize that shifting to working from home, as well as reviewing, updating, or creating new Workspace Safety Plans takes time. However, it is important to acknowledge that the University of Calgary has been able to remain open and accessible for research, thanks to your commitment to safety and your diligence in maintaining your Workspace Safety Plans.

Reminder

If any individual is feeling inappropriately pressured to work on campus, they should contact one of:

- Office of the Vice-President (Research) at ypr@ucalgary.ca,
- Dean of Graduate Studies at deangrad@ucalgary.ca,
- Or, if they prefer to report the concern confidentially, they can do so through the Protected Disclosure and Research Integrity Office (PDRIO):
 - Shirley Voyna Wilson, Protected Disclosure Advisor
 - wsvoyna@ucalgary.ca | 403.220.4086 (office) or 403.991.2808 (cell),
or
 - disclose@ucalgary.ca | Confidence Line 1.800.661.9675 (24/7)

Thank you all for your continued vigilance.

Dr. William Ghali
Vice-President (Research)

ucalgary.ca

You are receiving this message because you are a member of the UCalgary research community.

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