

# **PHASE 4 RESEARCH**

## **Summary of Changes from Phase 3**

- Permits all Research Activities.
- Permits all types of invited visitors and guests to participate in or conduct Research Activities.
- Modifies safety and mitigation requirements by eliminating the physical distancing requirement (including removal of plexiglass barriers) and modifying face covering requirements.
- Permits Plan Owners to retain or implement more restrictive safety protocols and protective measures than those required by [UCI Executive Directives](#), public health directives and the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(CETS\)](#).

## **Scope of Phase 4 Research**

1. UCI will start its gradual transition to Phase 4 on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will remain in Phase 4 until the earlier of following:
  - a. The governor ends California’s COVID-19 [state of emergency order](#),
  - b. The Cal/OSHA rescinds its [CETS](#) or it expires, or
  - c. The Vice Chancellor for Research announces a move to an earlier phase due to prevailing circumstances/conditions.
2. In the case of 1.a. or 1.b. above, UCI will end its phased-research program initiated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Plan Owners may undertake all types of research and associated activities (collectively “Research Activities”) that personnel can perform safely while complying with [UCI Executive Directives](#).
4. Research Activities may occur in or at:
  - a. UCI owned, operated, controlled, or managed facilities, space, locations, sites, and natural reserves (“In-Person Research Activities”), or
  - b. A location, facility, or site not owned, operated, controlled, or managed by UCI (“Remote Research Activities”).

5. Invited guests and visitors (including human research subjects and their family members and/or caregivers) may participate in Research Activities without Authorized Official approval. Plan Owners must ensure that invited guests and visitors comply with applicable research safety protocols/protective measures established by the Plan Owner and applicable [UCI Executive Directives](#).
6. Research personnel may perform administrative-like activities necessary or essential for conducting Research Activities (for example, obtaining and documenting human subject informed consent). **Phase 4 research does not include administrative functions or tasks in support of Research Activities performed by administrative/staff personnel because these functions are subject to unit [“Returning to Campus” plans](#).**

### **COVID-19 Safety Requirements**

1. Except in circumstances where the following would increase rather than diminish a threat to life and/or bodily injury or impede essential safety training, all personnel participating in or performing In-Person Research Activities (including invited guests and visitors) must follow all applicable [UCI Executive Directives](#). Plan Owners are responsible for maintaining a record of invited guests and visitors (name and contact information) for contact tracing purposes. In the case of human subjects research, guest and visitor logs should be kept separate from research study records.
2. Follow all other health, safety, and COVID-19 guidelines and requirements issued by Environmental Health & Safety and/or UCI Health (as applicable).
3. All Remote Research Activities must comply with all requirements, directives and guidance issued by the entity managing the location or site where researchers will perform the Remote Research Activities.
4. For the safety and well-being of researchers and human subjects, all human subject research must meet or exceed current public health and safety directives, as well as all guidelines and requirements issued by the Office of Research and the Institutional Review Board.

Plan Owners may establish more restrictive requirements, safety protocols, or protective measures applicable to their research programs.

### **Transition to Phase 4**

Plan Owners with approved Phase 1 through 3 research plans are not required to submit a Return to Campus Checklist (as required by UCI’s COVID Prevention Program).

Plan Owners should carefully consider the operating environment (space, as well as equipment and shared facilities and resources) and safety needs of their research program. If they determine that more restrictive COVID-19 safety protocols and protective measures, Plan Owners must submit their research safety plan to the appropriate Authorized Official(s) for review and approval. Authorized Officials remain responsible for establishing and maintaining processes for reviewing and approving such plans.

### **Accommodations**

When research personnel request or need accommodations, Plan Owners should provide them with contact information for requesting the same.

- Wendy Pawling, Disability Management Specialist, People Services Human Resources, (949) 824-9756, [wpawling@uci.edu](mailto:wpawling@uci.edu)
- Andrew Berk ADA Coordinator, Equal Opportunity & Diversity, (949) 824-5594, [anberk@uci.edu](mailto:anberk@uci.edu), and/or Karen L Andrews, Director, Student Disability Services Center, (949) 824-1633, [klandrew@uci.edu](mailto:klandrew@uci.edu).

### **Reversion to Earlier Phases**

Pursuant to public health directives and current prevailing circumstances, the Vice Chancellor for Research may curtail or modify Phase 4 research activities on little or no notice.

### **Office of Research Phase 4 Research Contact**

Please contact Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Administration Bruce Morgan ([bruce.morgan@uci.edu](mailto:bruce.morgan@uci.edu) or 949-824-5677) or Vice Chancellor for Research Pramod Khargonekar ([pramod.khargonekar@uci.edu](mailto:pramod.khargonekar@uci.edu) or 949-824-5796) with questions and comments regarding Phase 4 research.