COVID-19 UPDATE
OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH
Below is an update for Dell Med research faculty and staff in regards to Resuming Research Operations per the direction of the UT Austin Office of the VPR.

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH
As announced last week, in response to the recently released VPR Human Subjects Research Restart Plan for conducting human subjects research, we have created a human subjects research start/restart request form to request approval to start or restart human subjects research studies with a Dell Med PI that involves in-person interaction and/or takes place in a Dell Med managed facility. As of today, September 23rd, the official phase III Human Subjects Research Request start date, we have received over 50 requests. As part of our human subjects research restart request review process, we are processing access requests for human subjects study personnel to work in any area of any Dell Med building. We appreciate your patience as we review all requests, align study personnel needs with building capacity and distancing requirements, and begin to send responses.

If your study has already been given an exemption or approval to start or restart, then you do not need to seek additional approval. However, unless the previously approved study has already been submitted through the new HS restart request form, you will be emailed a survey link later this week, so that we may collect additional information about your study per VPR requirements.

Per VPR guidelines, all human subjects research procedures that can be conducted virtually should continue to be done virtually. Face-to-face human subjects protocols must be optimized to provide the lowest risk for COVID-19 transmission while facilitating the study conduct.

LABORATORY RESEARCH
As of today, September 23rd, VPR guidelines allow for up to 50% capacity in campus buildings, including laboratory research areas, pending approval. If you would like to update your lab team personnel or shifts for laboratories in HBD or DPRI, please complete this lab personnel request form.

ALL RESEARCH
For questions, see the UT Austin Research Restart webpage, including the UT Austin Research Restart FAQs, as well as the resources posted on the Dell Web Office of Research COVID-19 Guidelines web page. If you still need an answer, email the Dell Med Office of Research at DellMed.Office.of.Research@austin.utexas.edu.

Please remember that research activities on campus should continue to be limited to only those activities that cannot be conducted remotely or virtually. One time access
requests to a Dell Med Building (e.g., to gather files or materials) can be requested via this temporary access request form.