COVID-19 UPDATE

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH

As you may have seen last week in this email from the UT VPR, beginning Wednesday, October 14, some undergraduates may return to campus labs and research spaces - if their PIs colleges or schools have agreed to resume on-campus research activities for undergraduates.

Dell Medical School's Position on Undergraduates in Research
We value research as an important component of education and training. However, we strongly recommend that Dell Med PIs limit undergraduate participation in projects taking place in the HDB, DPRI, or UTHA as much as possible and preferably to a single student. It is important to remember that social distancing requirements still apply to all Dell Med research activities, and undergraduates must be assigned to a specific shift and cannot increase the number of personnel beyond current limits. Individual PI requests for more than one undergraduate will be considered but must be approved by the Dell Med Office of Research.

Requirements for Undergraduates in Research
Requirements for undergraduates to participate in research are outlined on the VPR’s Undergraduate Research Restart web page. These include each undergraduate research assistant consenting to mandatory proactive community (asymptomatic) testing at UT. Undergraduates will be required to provide a negative test result prior to starting any research activities taking place within campus research spaces or performing other in-person studies and then repeat testing at least once every 14 days thereafter. Supervising DMS PIs will be individually responsible for verifying negative test results that can be provided through the student’s Protect Texas Together app.

Request Approval for an Undergraduate Research Assistant
To request approval for an undergraduate research assistant, please complete this request form.

Thank you for your understanding and thoughtful consideration of the safety of all research personnel.

Sincerely,

Dell Med Office of Research