

From: [Cfaes-all](#) on behalf of [Kress, Cathann A. via Cfaes-all](#)
To: cfaes-all@lists.osu.edu
Subject: [cfaes-all] Dean's Update FAQs
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 3:03:10 PM
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CFAES Colleagues:

A few questions have been coming in about the plans to return to campus. Earlier this week, I sent an update that OSU would follow its own process, this remains true, but it might not directly reflect what you hear is happening on other campuses or business locations. I thought it would help to address some FAQs.

Governor's Announcements

This week, the Governor announced some new guidance related to reopening sectors. For a review of those announcements, visit the COVID-19 Hub (<http://kx.osu.edu/covid-19>), which now has links to State resources, continued closures and protocols for reopening businesses around the state.

These announcements have led to questions regarding how they apply to OSU and our college. Provost McPherson has clarified that OSU is continuing its own transition planning process. While the guidance from the governor's office will inform our process, we will make determinations as to the transition within the university and its facilities. There will be a lot of information shared about what is occurring across the state, or at other institutions, and that does not define what we may do at OSU.

Within the state guidance, there remains a prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 and encouragement for as many as possible to continue to telework. Given that, we are continuing to deliver summer courses online and are reviewing what needs to be done to ensure enough equipment and cleaning supplies are available to begin opening labs and other facilities.

Have our campuses and facilities re-opened?

No. Unless you have been identified as a critical employee and given an exemption letter, you should not be on campus or at any of our facilities.

Please do not return to our facilities without an exemption at this time.

When will we be back in our facilities?

This remains to be determined. The university will provide broad guidance and protocols for sanitation and safety, which we will need to determine how to implement locally. It will likely involve a phased approach, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and other conditions. We have a CFAES transition team working to identify issues which we will need to address as we hear more from the university.

Why can't we return to our facility if we aren't in Columbus?

While confirmed cases of COVID-19 vary across the state, local infection rates are not the only

consideration for returning to our facilities and re-opening them. We also need to consider the big picture and have consistency in the ways we ensure the safety of everyone at any facility. We are advocating for flexibility to manage decisions for our statewide campus and have already been considering ways to ensure that we meet those unique needs.

When can I restart my research?

If you are able to perform your research remotely, you may continue.

For critical research unable to be performed remotely, you can submit a request for exemption to the Office of Research and Graduate Education in CFAES. Further details and the application process can be found at: <https://grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/resources/covid-19-guidance>.

If you have questions, please consult your department chair or unit leader.

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