

Dear RAs and TAs,

I've gotten several questions about whether or not you are REQUIRED to come to campus to fulfil your teaching and research duties during this extremely strange time. The previous message I sent was intended to let you know that you MAY have access to campus if you need it, NOT that you are compelled to come to campus. I want to assure you that your health is my first priority and it should also be your first priority. **PIs are not allowed to interrupt your funding if you cannot or choose not to come to campus.** The Vice President and Associate Provost for Research will be sending out a message to all PIs emphasizing that point and I've asked him to copy all RAs. **If you are teaching remotely, we invite you to do that anywhere that makes sense for you.**

Leaving the choice about coming to campus to you is already now official policy. I want to call your attend to the last few paragraphs of the Provost's email yesterday to the whole campus:

"I hope we will all be patient and accommodating with our students through this process. In particular, faculty members who supervise continuing on-campus research will need to be accommodating of students and staff who are sick, have reason to self-isolate, or are uncomfortable coming to campus. In such situations, students and other personnel can be directed toward work that does not require their presence on campus. For those continuing to work on campus, work should be organized with social distancing goals in mind.

Those with sponsored research, including laboratory space on campus, should continue to follow the guidance from the [Vice President of Research and from the Director of Environmental Health and Safety](#) regarding preparations for lab safety and research continuity."

Kathleen Hutnik and I are building an information page just for graduate students and will send the link to that page when it is ready. In the meantime, please check the [University's COVID-19 information page](#) (particularly the second on Research and Graduate Studies). If you have questions not covered by these resources, or unanticipated situations arise, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or with Kathleen.

We care about you. We want to do everything we can to support your physical and emotional health during this difficult time.

With best wishes for you all.

Warmly,

Beth