

# COVID-19 UPDATE ON THE UNIVERSITY'S RESPONSE

GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

BOUNDLESS

# PLANNING & RE-ENTRY ADVISORY GROUP



UNIVERSITY OF  
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# PLANNING AND RE-ENTRY: SUMMARY OF SUPPORT



## Building Preparedness:

- 30,000+ COVID-19 signs and decals installed
- All faucets and showerheads in common areas flushed to proactively prevent bacterial growth



## Caretaking Strategy:

- 13.4 million wipes and 20,685L of hand sanitizer ordered
- 100 electrostatic sprayers deployed for superior and faster disinfection
- Twice daily disinfection and 24/7 disinfection of areas with symptomatic cases



## General Preparedness:

- Distribution of non-medical masks and critical supplies
- 25,801 active UCheck users
- 475+ unique GATs reviewed; ongoing reviews and support



# PLANNING AND RE-ENTRY: VENTILATION

- **Tri-Campus Ventilation Strategy Highlights:**
  - MERV 13 enhanced filtration installed at all compatible locations
  - Where ventilation systems are scheduled, all have been adjusted to ensure 2 hours of air flushing pre-occupancy
  - All HVAC systems reviewed to ensure proper operations, in addition to regular maintenance
- **Fall 2021 Preparedness**
  - Completing classroom ventilation assessment
  - Sourcing local air filtration systems for classrooms with low ventilation



# PLANNING AND RE-ENTRY: WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE PILOT

## Monitoring COVID-19 by Sampling Wastewater: A Research Partnership

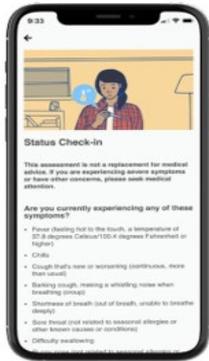
- Pilot Project underway in 2 of our most populated residences
- Significant partnership including:
  - Faculty in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering,
  - Ryerson University
  - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
  - Toronto Public Health
- Initial results of pilot program expected late spring



# PLANNING AND RE-ENTRY: UCHECK SELF-ASSESSMENT WEB PORTAL

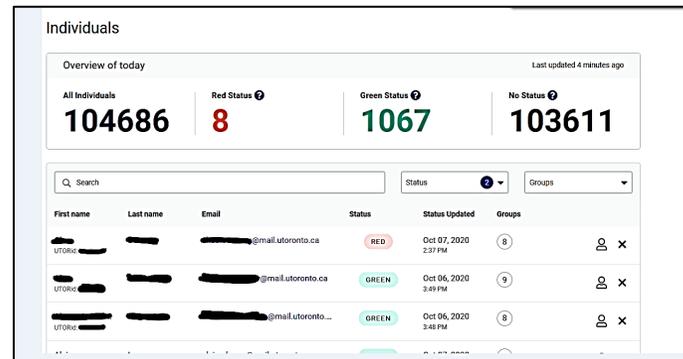
25,801 Active Users (at least one check-in)

## 1 Expanded Availability



Available to the entire student, faculty and staff community across all three campuses

## 2 Dashboard Distribution



Dynamic real-time dashboard is available to administration to monitor status of health screening

## 3 QR Code Building Check-in Pilot



Leveraging web-based system to enable QR code check in and out

**STUDENTS**



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# STUDENTS: QUARANTINE PROGRAMS (FULL AND “AT HOME”)

REGISTERED: 2466

COMPLETED: 2227

*“U of T exceeded my expectations with their Quarantine program. I didn't expect it to be this well organized and comfortable. 14 days went by like nothing!”*

*“I would like to thank you all for the assistance provided during my mandatory quarantine. You really made this period easier. Everything went smoothly and the meals were amazing!”*

*“I would sincerely like to thank the University for providing me with this experience. I am very grateful for the accommodation and resources provided, which definitely helped me settle in stress-free.”*

*“Please accept our thanks for the welcome and care our daughter received on her arrival to Toronto and through her quarantine period. To all the people who arranged, organized, and supported everything, assembled care packages, met her at LBP airport, prepared meals, delivered meals, and checked in on her; we are extremely grateful.”*

# STUDENTS: COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANTS

- \$8.9 million have been disbursed to more than 6,800 students since mid-March 2020

*“As an international student who is allowed to work only part-time, it played an essential role to keep me in school. This award lifted a bit of the weight on my shoulder and let me see a clearer vision of what was ahead of me.”*

# STUDENTS: PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

**MENTORSHIP** 1w

**YOUR MENTOR NAVIGATORS**

Meet with underrepresented upper-year students who can help you discover belonging, academic and social supports, and more.

**SWIPE UP TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**

ACCESS & INCLUSION #UOFT PEER PROGRAMS • UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

**9 New Things** 4d

**6**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**THE AFRICAN DIASPORA, ANTI-BLACK RACISM & SPORT IN CANADA**

Thursday, Feb. 18  
6-7pmET

**ONLINE** @UOFTPE #UOFT



**Academics** 23w

Check out our 8 steps to achieve academic success!

idscoop\_utscc

**Gradlife** 13w

**#UOFT**

**Graduate students!**

Join a Graduate writing group for regular writing with peers (online)

Here's what grads have to say about it...

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**9 New Things** 1d

**3**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**INCOME TAX INFO SESSIONS #UOFT**

Learn about filing income taxes in Canada as an international student

Thursday, Jan. 21  
9-11:30pmET

**ONLINE #CIEUOFT**

**February** 2w

**MAKE YOURSELF A PRIORITY!**

**Apply by February 8th, 2021!**

**MoveU. HappyU**

Improve your mental health with 1-on-1 exercise training and behavioural coaching

**HWC Groups** 5w

**New Program Alert!!**

wellness\_utscc

Finding Self-Acceptance using principles of Self-Compassion

THURSDAYS FROM 1:00-2:30PM

UOFT.ME/GROUPTHERAPY

wellness\_utscc This group seeks to provide a space to explore our understanding of ourselves using a comp...

**9 New Things** 4d

**4**

**5 WAYS TO WELL-BEING**

Learn simple strategies to promote positive mental health while practising physical distancing & managing COVID-19 related stress

Thursday, Feb. 18  
9:30-11amET

**ONLINE #UOFT**

**#LetsTalkUTM** 3w

**Join us all this week!**

**#LetsTalkUTM Week**  
Jan 25 - 29, 2021

<p><b>Mon, Jan 25</b></p> <p>12-2 PM   Zoom Demystifying Counseling: Q&amp;A with HCC Counseling Staff</p>	<p><b>Tues, Jan 26</b></p> <p>12-12:30 PM   Zoom Resource Spotlight: Accessibility Services</p> <p>12:30-1 PM   Zoom Resource Spotlight: CMRA</p> <p>Aval Durbin 2-3 PM   Zoom Together Tuesday: Create Your Own Self-Care Package</p>	<p><b>Wed, Jan 27</b></p> <p>11 AM-12 PM   Zoom UTM Eagles Event</p> <p>12-12:30 PM   Zoom Resource Spotlight: GradCoach</p> <p>1-2 PM   Zoom Wellness 101 Building Resilience (Prof. Justin Anderson)</p>
<p><b>Thurs, Jan 28</b></p> <p>Well Let's Talk Day 2021</p> <p>12-12:30 PM   Zoom Resource Spotlight: MySSP</p> <p>2-4 PM   Zoom Wellness &amp; Visual Learning: A Pleated Conversation</p>	<p><b>Fri, Jan 29</b></p> <p>12-12:30 PM   Zoom Resource Spotlight: Career Centre of Greater Toronto</p> <p>12:30-1 PM   Zoom Resource Spotlight: Student's Place</p>	<p><b>Plus:</b></p> <p>Daily Instagram Resource Spotlights</p> <p>Availability during COVID-19: Stories - Photo Bank!</p>

Learn more at: [uoft.me/letstalkutm21](https://uoft.me/letstalkutm21)

Great tips from @utscaacc

**8 STEPS** to ensure you achieve ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Academic Advising & Career Centre

**UOFT SPOTLIGHT**

**SPOKEN WORD STORY TELLING**

a Workshop Experience with Patrick de Belen

**February** 2w

**Vogue your house down**

Learn and practice the five elements of vogue dance!

Led by Toronto's own Legendary House Mother Stroupy of the Kiki House of Dance

Every Wednesday starting at 6 PM (Online)

Register at: [uoft.me/diversitymovesus](https://uoft.me/diversitymovesus)

**FAST FORWARD FRIDAY**

**FEBRUARY 22 - 26**

**MON. FEB. 22**  
WORKSHOP  
Now That I'm Graduating What's Next?

**TUES. FEB. 23**  
WORKSHOP  
Getting Ready For Your Job Interview

INFO SESSION  
amazon

**WED. FEB. 24**  
WORKSHOP  
Building Your Resume And Cover Letter

**THURS. FEB. 25**  
OTHER  
Career Centre Drop-In Hours

**FRI. FEB. 26**  
WORKSHOP  
Finding Summer Jobs & Internships

WHY NOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A CAREER COUNSELOR?

REGISTER VIA [CLNX.UTORONTO.CA](https://CLNX.UTORONTO.CA)

**#JoyAtUoFT** 1w

기쁨, 행복, خوش, 喜悦, joy, gioia

atshennonniatshera

What brings YOU #JoyAtUoFT (wherever you are)?

My exciting new journey after moving to Canada started with UoFT. Learning new things!!!

**#JOYATUOFT**

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**RESEARCH**



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# RESEARCH: COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 20  
Provincial State  
of Emergency  
Only exempted  
research  
continues

June 22  
GTA moves  
to Stage 2

July 31  
GTA moves  
to Stage 3

Nov. 14  
Toronto  
moves to  
Control (Red)  
Tier

Dec. 26  
Provincewide  
Shutdown

May 29  
On-campus  
research  
resumes

July 24  
Face-to-face  
(F2F) in-person  
research resumes

Oct. 9  
GTA moves  
back to  
Stage 2

Nov. 23  
GTA moves to  
Lockdown (Grey)  
Tier  
Non-exempt F2F  
in-person  
research stops

Jan. 14  
State of  
Emergency



Type of Exemption	Number of Exemptions Approved N=238
Research	133 (44 were COVID-19 critical)
Maintenance (Equipment, animals, etc.)	105

## RESEARCH RESTART STEERING COMMITTEE

- The RRSC is made up of the VDRs/ADRs/VPRs and representatives from UTL, University Operations, and ITS
  - The RRSC formally meets biweekly (was weekly until July 21, 2020).
  - Smaller drop-in calls are held on a weekly basis and are well attended by VDRs/ADRs/VPRs.
  - All these meetings will continue for the foreseeable future.
- Thanks to the efforts of the RRSC, Deans, Chairs, faculty, staff and students, we have had a safe and productive research restart and adaptation

Toronto COVID-19 Action Fund provided a total of \$10.3 million to 40 high-impact projects



# RESEARCH: RECOVERY AND ADAPTATION

- Research restart and adaptation process:
  - Faculty members must submit a research restart request to their unit head using an approved form
  - Academic divisions approve on-campus plans based on the capacity of buildings and research spaces to accommodate increased occupancy based on public health guidance. Overall divisional research recovery plans were approved by the Dean and by the AVP (Research Oversight and Compliance)
  - Modification of previously approved research restart plan uses the same process
  - All those being brought into the research space (including undergraduates) are included in the faculty member's request
  - PIs asked to ensure that everyone works remotely, unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site
- For human participants research, most researchers could pivot to virtual methods. For those requiring in-person face-to-face, we have developed a research recovery plan that includes a return to REB review and which will include a F2F Pre-review Committee – made up of senior members of the Human Research Ethics Unit and Occupational Health and Safety to review COVID-19-related risks prior to REB review
- Off-campus (field) research proposals must demonstrate that the research and travel are both essential, and require an OHS risk assessment
- Since October 8:
  - Human Research Ethics: 1502 protocols reviewed
  - Animal Ethics and Compliance: 209 protocols reviewed
  - Research Safety and Compliance: 178 permits reviewed, 554 inspections and 250 environmental tests completed
  - Occupational Health and Safety: 680 assessments completed

# RESEARCH: COMMUNICATIONS

## University of Toronto Principles for Research Recovery & Adaptation

ON THIS PAGE: [Overarching Principles](#) [Implementation Principles](#) [Other Resources](#)

Last updated Friday, January 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST

 **Please Note**

[MESSAGE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY ON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES](#)

The University of Toronto (U of T) is among the world's leading research fields. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, U of T has had to adapt to restarting suspended activities while mitigating risks. This document articulates the institution's overarching principles for research recovery, in coordination with the academic divisions and institutions, the University of Toronto & Services, Human Resources & Equity, the University of Toronto & Information Services, and the University of Toronto & Planning & Design.

This document articulates the institution's overarching principles for research recovery, in coordination with the academic divisions and institutions, the University of Toronto & Services, Human Resources & Equity, the University of Toronto & Information Services, and the University of Toronto & Planning & Design.

The University has formed the [Research Restart Steering Committee](#), including vice/associate deans/principals research services. Academic divisions are developing research recovery plans. Director input is sought via divisional committees, and other guidance developed by the Steering Committee.



Human research that can be done through virtual (e.g. Microsoft Teams) or remote (e.g. phone, email) or online (e.g. M.I.R.K. Health) conducted through these methods. Please see [University-supported platforms](#) and [Centre for Research & Innovation Support resources](#). Note that research conducted through virtual, remote or online methods may continue or commence in all phases of research recovery. Time-sensitive COVID-19 clinical research that has been approved by the University may be conducted without waiting for later phases of research recovery.

There may be circumstances where conducting the research virtually or remotely will not be possible and therefore the research will be conducted using face-to-face methods. These methods differ in the amount of physical contact between researchers and participants, and therefore the risk of COVID-19 transmission. These methods are categorized by level of risk, with respect to COVID-19 transmission:

COVID-19 Research Risk	Research Method	Examples	Direct Contact
Level 1	Interaction/observation	Interviews, focus groups, surveys, computer-based experiments and data collection, non-invasive neuro-imaging (on campus)	None or minimal contact, physical contact easily achieved
Level 2	Intervention	Introducing dietary or exercise regime, drug, or natural health product testing	Some physical contact (e.g. biospecimen collection, participant sweat/urine collection), physical distancing sometimes required

## Guideline for Reopening Research Spaces

ON THIS PAGE: [Overview](#) [Forms & Downloads](#) [Other Resources](#)

Last updated Friday January 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST

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### Overview

As government regulations and public health advice continue to evolve, the University of Toronto (U of T) is looking ahead to resuming operations of research spaces that were closed or operating with reduced occupancy due to COVID-19. In so doing, the health and safety of people in the research space is a priority and appropriate measures must be put in place. Such measures will take into account factors including legal obligations, public health advice, and operational considerations. The University will put in place measures to protect the health and safety of its faculty, staff, students, contractors and other members of the U of T community, and to provide reassurance to community members who may have concerns about COVID-19 transmission. This guideline outlines strategies and the University's requirements for making research spaces ready for re-entry or increased occupancy. This guideline is also a consolidation of various tools/resources from the University and other public health authorities that will be useful during re-opening. [Download the Guideline for Reopening Research Spaces](#)

## Implications of the Ontario Provincial Emergency on Research Activities

SHARE:  

### A message from Professor Lori Ferris, Associate Vice-President, Research (Oversight and Compliance) January 14, 2021

The Government of Ontario has announced a provincial emergency and a stay-at-home order, effective Thursday, January 14. This order requires "everyone to remain at home, except for essential activities, such as exercise or for essential work."

This message is an update to the [provincial emergency order](#), effective January 14, 2021, regarding research activities. It is intended to provide information on how to proceed with research activities, and to ensure that research activities are conducted in a way that is consistent with the provincial emergency order.

All research work that requires them to be on campus must be conducted remotely, unless the research is deemed essential.

We are also requiring that all research activities be conducted in a way that is consistent with the provincial emergency order.

Please limit travel or travel to other areas of the province.

There are no changes to the [University of Toronto's research activities](#) that are deemed essential. Research activities that are deemed essential are those that are necessary for the health and safety of the community, or for the health and safety of the University of Toronto community. Research activities that are deemed essential are those that are necessary for the health and safety of the community, or for the health and safety of the University of Toronto community.

For human participant research involving human participants, notice except for the essential research activities, on-going research may continue as usual.

Human Participant Research

### AQs

Updates to 4.5

#### 1.0 Restart

1.1 When can I restart my research? +

1.2 Where do I find more information about how to restart research? +

1.3 How do I determine whether I need PPE for my research space or lab? +

#### 2.0 Research with Indigenous Communities

2.1 My research is in an Indigenous community. What should I be aware of? +

#### 3.0 Human Research

3.1 What is the current status of research with human participants? +

3.2 What human ethics protocol submissions will the U of T REBs review? +

**QUESTIONS?**



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