MEMORANDUM

To: **Faculty, Staff, Postdocs and Students involved in research,**
From: **Dr. Adnan Hyder, Senior Associate Dean for Research, GWSPH**
Date: **7 July 2020**
Subject: **Research and COVID-19 – Re-opening**

We continue to follow University protocol in addition to local/national guidance in light of the ongoing pandemic. On 28 May 2020 the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) issued an outline for research reopening with the stipulation that each school create a more refined action plan. The GWSPH Office of Research Excellence and Research Committee worked with faculty and staff to form five working groups who created the *GWSPH Research Reopening Guide*. The guidelines were created with four principles in mind:

1. The health and safety of our community is paramount.
2. Science, evidence, and pragmatism guide decisions.
3. Flexibility and innovation in the face of evolving circumstances.
4. Strive to provide inclusive and equitable solutions.

For more information on the *Research Reopening Guidelines for GWSPH* please view the recorded 1 July e-hall available on the ORE COVID-19 Research webpage.

Research Initiation and Reopening Approval

Principal Investigators (PIs) who intend to initiate a new project or restart a halted project are *required to have an approved reopening plan*. PIs should carefully review the instructions before submitting the GWSPH Research Project/Laboratory Initiation & Reopening Approval Form. Both of these documents can be found on the COVID-19 Research webpage.

Forms must receive approval from your Department Chair before being sent to the ORE at GWSPHResearch@gwu.edu. The Senior Associate Dean for Research will review the request and consult with the Executive Associate Dean for Operations as needed. In addition, one request must be completed for *every* research project or laboratory.

The Office of Human Research (OHR) released guidance on 26 June 2020 for Reopening Research during the COVID-19 Pandemic that instructs schools to review all new research *and* existing projects that are restarting/reopening. As a result, all studies going to the GW IRB will need GWSPH approval first as stated above.

Additional Resources:
*   University Updates: https://campusadvisories.gwu.edu/university-updates
*   OVPR COVID-19 Updates: https://sponsoredprojects.gwu.edu/covid-19
*   OHR COVID-19 Updates: https://humanresearch.gwu.edu/covid-19
*   GWSPH Research COVID-19 Updates: https://publichealth.gwu.edu/content/covid-19-research

Thank you to all who eagerly contributed to the research reopening guidelines. Please email us for any advice and send questions to: GWSPHResearch@gwu.edu.