Dear Texas State Researcher:

On March 31, 2021, a broad communication was sent via email stating that the President’s Cabinet has approved resumption of laboratory and field-based research activities at full (100%) staffing capacity. This new allowance was designated as Phase 4. On May 19, 2021, President Trauth’s message informed the Texas State community of the signed Executive Order No. GA-36 that states masks are no longer required for students, faculty, staff, and visitors at any university facility or event, indoors or outdoors, at Texas State.

Be advised the continued use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is recommended for research activities.

Physical distancing, PPE, sanitation, and logging of personnel upon entry and exit must continue according to the SOPs you submitted for your lab space(s) or off campus research activities. Students working in the laboratories will remain optional. PPE (mask coverings, gloves, gowns, etc.) are recommended taking into consideration the location, environment of the research, and nature of research activities/intervention.

Researchers are expected to follow local, state, and federal guidelines as they apply to the research project. Certain locations such as healthcare settings will continue with their own guidelines.

If you have not already done so, and your application has not expired, please submit an amendment addressing SOP questions for resuming in-person research activities. If you have an approved SOP filed with your IRB protocol in Kuali, no further action is required.

Questions regarding the SOP process can be directed to Michael Blanda at MB29@txstate.edu. Thank you for your partnership and leadership in navigating the challenges imposed on research activities by the onset of Covid-19. Together we have successfully demonstrated that we can mitigate virus transmission in shared laboratory spaces on campus by observing responsible research best practices.

Denise Gobert, PT MEd, PhD
IRB Chair