



Dr. Denise Gobert

Dear Texas State Researcher:

On [January 3, 2022](#), a broad communication was sent via email regarding Texas State University Operations, spring 2022 course delivery, and student support services. In response to the current COVID-19 surge, we are asked to move activities to an online/remote delivery beginning January 18, 2022, through January 30, 2022. Delaying in person activities or moving to an online/virtual format will provide a safer environment for employees, Texas State researchers, and research participants.

Laboratories and other spaces dedicated to research, creative, and scholarly activities may remain open with reasonable mitigation measures for health and safety. We encourage researchers to review current protocols and access risks using the [IRB COVID Risk Checklist](#). Variables to consider are the location, environment of the research, type of intervention, and population.

While the university cannot mandate actions, we encourage all to be vigilant about PPE (mask coverings, gloves, gowns, etc.), social distancing as much as possible, testing regularly, and getting vaccinated and boosted. Students working in the laboratories will remain optional. It is up to each member of our community to follow CDC isolation/quarantine guidelines and take necessary precautions if exposed to or testing positive for COVID-19. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Emilio Carranco will continue to provide updates on important precautions and CDC guidelines.

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, an amendment moving activities to a remote/virtual format can be submitted through the Kuali protocol system.

Questions are welcomed and can be directed to Compliance Officer, Monica Gonzales at meg201@txstate.edu or IRB Chair, Dr. Denise Gobert at dgobert@txstate.edu.

Thank you for your partnership and leadership in navigating the challenges imposed on research activities due to a persistent Covid-19 pandemic. As demonstrated in the past, together we can successfully mitigate virus transmission in shared laboratory spaces on campus by observing responsible research best practices.

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IRB Chair

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This letter is an electronic communication from Texas State University.