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**Subject:** Research Re-Engagement  
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Good morning everyone

You probably have heard by now that the Pharmacy and North University Buildings have been chosen as part of UMOR's pilot group for research reengagement. The aim of this pilot reengagement group is to show that we can safely engage our laboratory based research workforce, and still keep everyone safe and healthy. It is meant to be time limited and to progress in waves as we reengage more and more buildings, labs, and people.

We have been instructed that office spaces are to be closed during the initial phases of this plans and that access to our buildings will only be allowed for authorized users. I know that not having access to your offices is troubling to many of you, but we must follow University guidelines so ask you to respect this decision.

There are several reasons for why we are being asked to be so strict with office space. Currently there are limits being placed on total building occupancy and we are being asked to only allow in 25% of our restricted numbers during our first wave of this process. Everyone that does enter the building will need to do so through one entrance and undergo health screening. This will take time and given that the number of hours each day for which we will be allowed in the building will be restricted. Our university has never been in a situation like this before, and so I anticipate that there will be hiccups in the currently planned processes. By adding additional people trying to get into their offices, we make it more likely that hiccups will occur which would potentially affect the way that we conduct fall semester classes, and our ability to continue working in our research labs.

Our research reengagement process has a lot of moving parts and as we have all learned, changes sometimes on a minute to minute timeline. But for now, we are asking that for those you want that want to access the building solely to do work in an office, please hang tight. Once the pilot laboratory reengagement process is deemed a success (and I have every confidence that it will be) we will be moving to expand office options according to university guidelines.

Thanks again for your patience and resilience during the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Jim

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