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**From:** Active UVM PIs <ACTIVE\_UVM\_PIS@list.uvm.edu> on behalf of Kirk Dombrowski <Kirk.Dombrowski@UVM.EDU>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** ACTIVE\_UVM\_PIS@LIST.UVM.EDU  
**Subject:** Moving to Level 4 research activity on Tuesday Nov 24 at 5 pm

Researchers, Deans and Research Staff:

With community spread now affecting most areas of Vermont, the decision has been made to go to Research Activity Level 4 (Orange) across all UVM research facilities. This change will take effect on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. Please make the necessary preparations.

This activity level allows research to continue across the campus and related research spaces, but removes undergraduate research assistants from participation in in-person lab / team activities, allows only remote team meetings, and restricts access to laboratory buildings to approved project personnel. Human subjects research restrictions are heightened, with only 1:1 interaction permitted and only incidental physical contact (and this only in settings with appropriate use of personal protective equipment). For undergraduate-led projects that are essential to student progress, exceptions are possible (for example: senior design studio, senior thesis). Please look for a notice from your Deans' office about who to contact with this request. In these cases, Deans, OVPR, and Lab Safety will work with mentors on possible continuations/exceptions.

All research personnel continuing to work on campus, including faculty, are strongly encouraged to perform weekly COVID-19 testing. Our goal is to keep our research activities from becoming sources of further transmission. Testing and contact tracing are vital means for keeping research activities and research spaces safe and open.

We understand that these are difficult times for researchers and for our University. Our work together has allowed us to continue to thrive even under these circumstances. Let's continue to work together to make it through this next phase of the pandemic with the same level of success, patience, and determination.



**Kirk Dombrowski, PhD**

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