TO: ECU Official
FROM: Dr. Michael R. Van Scott
Interim Vice Chancellor
DATE: 20 August 2021
SUBJECT: COVID Research Guidance Update

The incidence of COVID and hospitalizations due to COVID are increasing in eastern North Carolina. The surge is expected to continue for the next few weeks as students return to campus and activities in and around Greenville increase. Public health officials predict that the trajectory of the current surge will be steep compared to previous surges, but it also may resolve rapidly due to the number of individuals that have immunity due to vaccination or prior exposure to the virus.

The ECU campus, classrooms, laboratories, and experiential learning sites are expected to remain open, but researchers are encouraged to be vigilant, get vaccinated, adhere to ECU’s current public health guidelines, and follow research-specific guidelines posted on the REDE website for Phase 2 conditions. Minimize student and staff density in laboratories and field sites by delaying lower priority and high-risk projects, particularly those that place investigators in close contact with unrelated individuals.

If the COVID projections are accurate, these precautions and potential delays in research projects will be short-lived.