

From: [John Wilkin](mailto:John.Wilkin@lists.illinois.edu)
To: libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu
Subject: Return to On-Site Work, next steps
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 11:41:52 AM

Colleagues,

I've appreciated the thoughtful messages from our University leadership regarding the brutal and senseless killing of George Floyd and the aftermath of that tragedy. It only makes sense that the Chancellor paused the current efforts to return to on-site work, which would have started today (June 1st).

In the relatively near future, the Chancellor will let the campus know that it is time to restart that process. As I noted last week, our teams have done an outstanding job of crafting plans for the return to on-site work, and although many details need to be ironed out and we will encounter new challenges as we move forward, I feel confident about the approach of our plans.

Moments ago I wrote to our teams and the AULs and asked them to be ready to put their plans in place. In light of the goal to be able to support some form of residential experience for our students in the Fall, the University's decision to end the current delay will probably result in the need to immediately initiate the process that we laid out. While we will need to be ready to move quickly, please keep in mind that this is an 8-week process with a gradual phase-in, with **no Library employees returning the first week**, and few (e.g., administration) returning the week after. Expect to see messages about steps in your units and an ongoing communication process about the rollout of our plans, including availability of PPE, building preparation, and the way that we organize our work. Because we are a large and complicated organization, it will be extremely important for the AULs to play a strong coordinating role on operations. Additionally, I have asked Chris Prom to take the lead as the primary point of coordination and contact. Having Chris on point will help us to have one point of coordination for our management of the process and to address recurring issues. I'm grateful to him for his willingness to step in.

For now, though, I want to emphasize the Chancellor's message that this pause will continue for an unknown period of time, that all faculty, staff and students are to continue their current remote-working arrangements until further notice, and that we are not to return to campus unless you have specifically received permission to do so from your supervisor.

I know many of us are anxious and worried right now--anxious about the return to on-site work, about COVID-19, about the world. It's an unsettling time. I cannot stress enough the importance of taking care of yourself (and those around you), physically and emotionally. If you have any questions, please let me know or reach out to HR, to your supervisor or to an AUL. Communication is very important right now.

Yours,
John

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John P. Wilkin

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