Reactivating Campus for Fall 2020
NC State University is implementing a reactivation of campus operations and activities in accordance with efforts to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The university will incorporate all state and federal orders, directives of the University of North Carolina System, and CDC guidelines to help ensure a safe campus environment. At the time of this report’s publication in late June, the following measures and changes have been approved.

Academic Calendar
The 2020-2021 academic year will begin nine days earlier than originally scheduled, and the fall semester will be completed before Thanksgiving. Students will attend classes on Labor Day and forgo Fall Break. Once exams are completed on November 20, students will not return to campus until the spring semester begins. Commencement plans will be announced at a later date. Since the university will be open on Labor Day, the university will be closed on December 24 as a replacement day off for faculty and staff.

Housing
NC State is reducing occupancy in all residence halls except apartments. The university is also converting some double rooms to singles in each residence hall to create rooms that can be requested by students with preexisting health conditions, as self-identified through a student survey. Rooms will be available for isolation and quarantine purposes as needed.

Physical Distancing and Face Coverings
Members of the campus community are expected to maintain physical distance. Many campus buildings and spaces will have visible reminders encouraging physical distancing, such as floor tape indicating appropriate distance, rearranged furniture and signs indicating traffic flow. Face coverings will be required to be worn by students, faculty, staff and visitors in all NC State buildings and in all university programs held in nonuniversity buildings effective July 1, 2020. Face coverings will also be required in outdoor spaces on university property where appropriate physical distancing cannot be guaranteed. In situations where appropriate physical distance is maintained and guaranteed, then no face covering is required. Everyone is expected to carry a face covering on campus at all times, in case they encounter an unforeseen situation where physical separation cannot be maintained.

Research
NC State’s Office of Research and Innovation has successfully implemented the first phase of their reactivation process and is moving forward with the next phase. Faculty, students and postdocs who conduct research in labs and research facilities on campus will be trained to follow new protocols and safety measures in the fall semester in accordance with this phase of reactivation. The density of occupants in labs and research facilities will be controlled to ensure adequate physical distancing. ORI plans to undertake a safe, appropriate approach to allow service centers to reactivate operations at increased utilization levels in the coming months.

Courses
At the present time, we are re-optimizing our classroom assignments to allow for greater social distancing and anticipate completing that process in early July. Some conference and meeting spaces will be repurposed for instructional use and additional safety measures are being installed in classrooms to increase their capacities. The university is moving some larger classes online or offering them in a hybrid format that combines online instruction with traditional face-to-face class sessions.