

Guidance for Accessing UT AgResearch and Education Centers - Revised 8/24/2021

To continue protecting the health and well-being of our employees and the general public while fulfilling our critical land-grant mission during the national COVID-19 crisis, UT AgResearch has adopted the following guidance concerning access to the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) AgResearch and Education Centers (AgResearch Centers) by faculty, staff, students, and external constituents.

- AgResearch Center priorities are: 1) health and well-being of our faculty, staff and visitors, 2) care for livestock and plants grown under certain conditions (e.g., greenhouses), and 3) supporting essential/critical research.
- All UTIA AgResearch Centers are operating normally in terms of research and extension activities. Offices are open.
- Due to recent rise of COVID-19 Delta variant cases across the state, all UTIA offices both on and off campus are expected to follow the temporary requirement to wear face coverings in all indoor spaces. Exceptions include private offices, engaging in fitness activities, and while actively eating and drinking.
- All programs will continue unless local guidance prohibits such events.
- Social distancing practices are recommended whenever possible.
- Those who have chosen not to receive vaccinations, whether because of health, religious, or other reasons, are encouraged to wear a mask and socially distance. Please bring your own mask as a limited number of masks may be available in AgResearch Center offices.
- Frequent hand washing is encouraged, providing protection against COVID-19 as well as other easily transmissible illnesses, such as colds and flu. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available on site and for events.
- Meetings and events are being held, however, safety plans are being continuously reviewed and revised according to CDC guidance.
- All AgResearch employees and visitors are encouraged to follow all local guidelines that may differ relative to mask wearing and social distancing. Be mindful that the latest CDC guidelines do allow businesses, at their discretion, to require masks and/or social distancing.

Feel free to contact us with any questions.

For the latest updates and student information, please refer to: utk.edu/coronavirus.

For UTIA-specific updates and resources, please visit: utia.tennessee.edu/coronavirus.

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