

## RESULTS TO DATE FROM COGR'S COVID-19 RESEARCH IMPACT STUDY

JULY 7, 2020

### **Background:**

In May 2020, COGR administered the first Baseline Survey in its *COVID-19 Research Impact Study*. The goal of this project was to gather information from member institutions that could be used to gauge the immediate and on-going impact of COVID-19 on research activities at universities, academic medical centers and independent research institutes. [Results from the Baseline Survey](#) were shared with the membership on May 21, 2020, and [reported on](#) during the June Virtual Meeting. The Baseline Survey was followed by the administration of two Pulse Surveys: “Pulse 1” and “Pulse 2”. Pulse 1 was administered during the first during the week of June 2nd, and Pulse 2 was administered during the week of June 22nd. At least two more Pulse Surveys will be administered until the project concludes in late July or early August. The report below provides an overview of the two most recent Pulse Surveys.

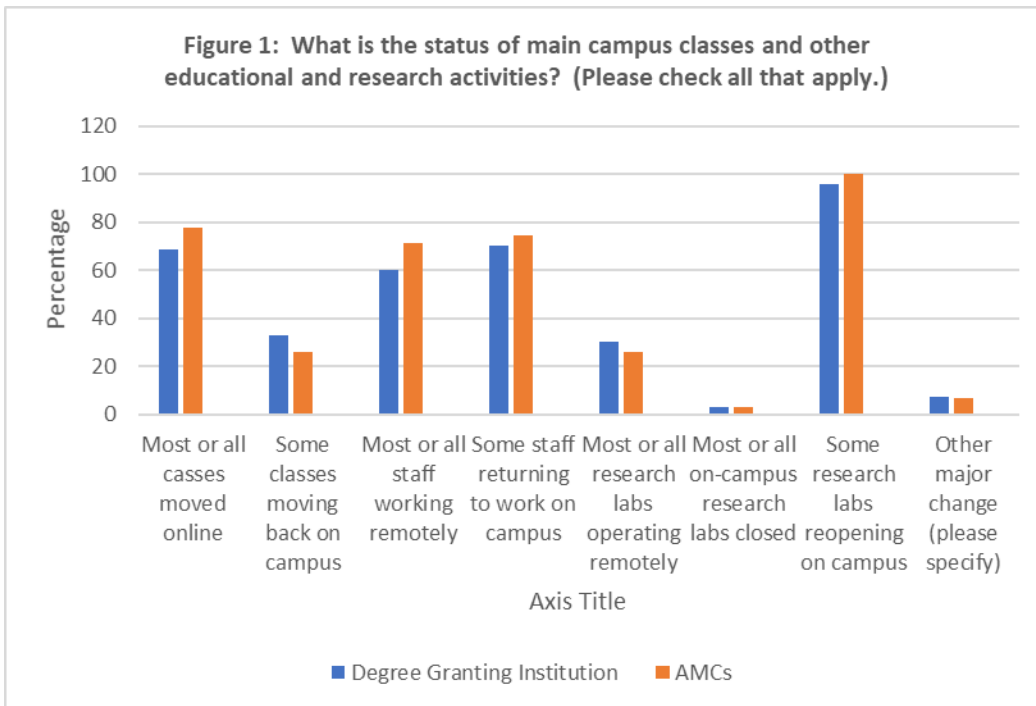
### **Survey Responders and Response Rate:**

Pulse 1 was administered to 136 institutions and 90 responded (response rate of 66%). Pulse 2 was administered to 187 institutions of which 84 responded (45% response rate). For both Pulse Surveys, degree-granting institutions constituted the largest number of responders followed by academic medical centers (AMCs), with approximately 75% of the responding AMCs noting that they are a part of a degree-granting institution.

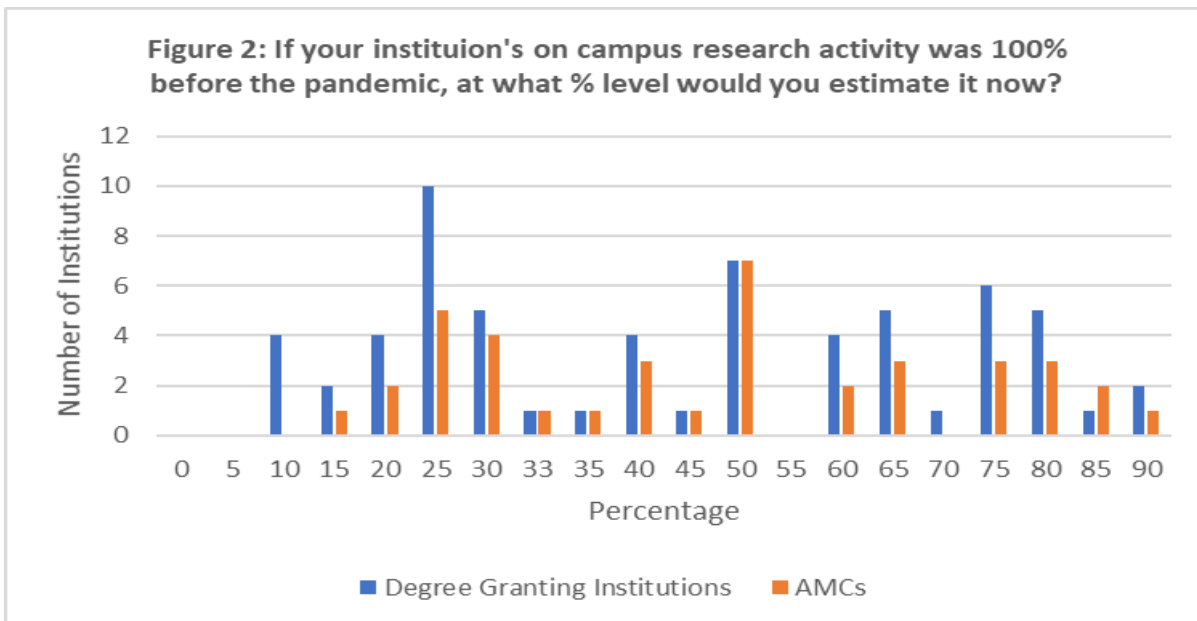
### **Themes that Emerged from the Pulse Surveys:**

#### ❖ **Reopening on-campus research activity is well underway.**

Data from Pulse 2 set forth below in **Figure 1** shows a substantial increase in on-campus research activity when compared to the data collected in Pulse 1. For example, in Pulse 1 62.25% of degree-granting institutions reported that most or all research labs were operating remotely, while in Pulse 2 this figure dropped to 30% for degree-granting institutions and 25.8% for AMCs affiliated with degree-granting institutions. Similarly, the percentage of degree-granting institutions reporting most or all staff working remotely dropped from 87.8% in Pulse 1 to 60% for degree-granting institutions and 71% for AMCs in Pulse 2.

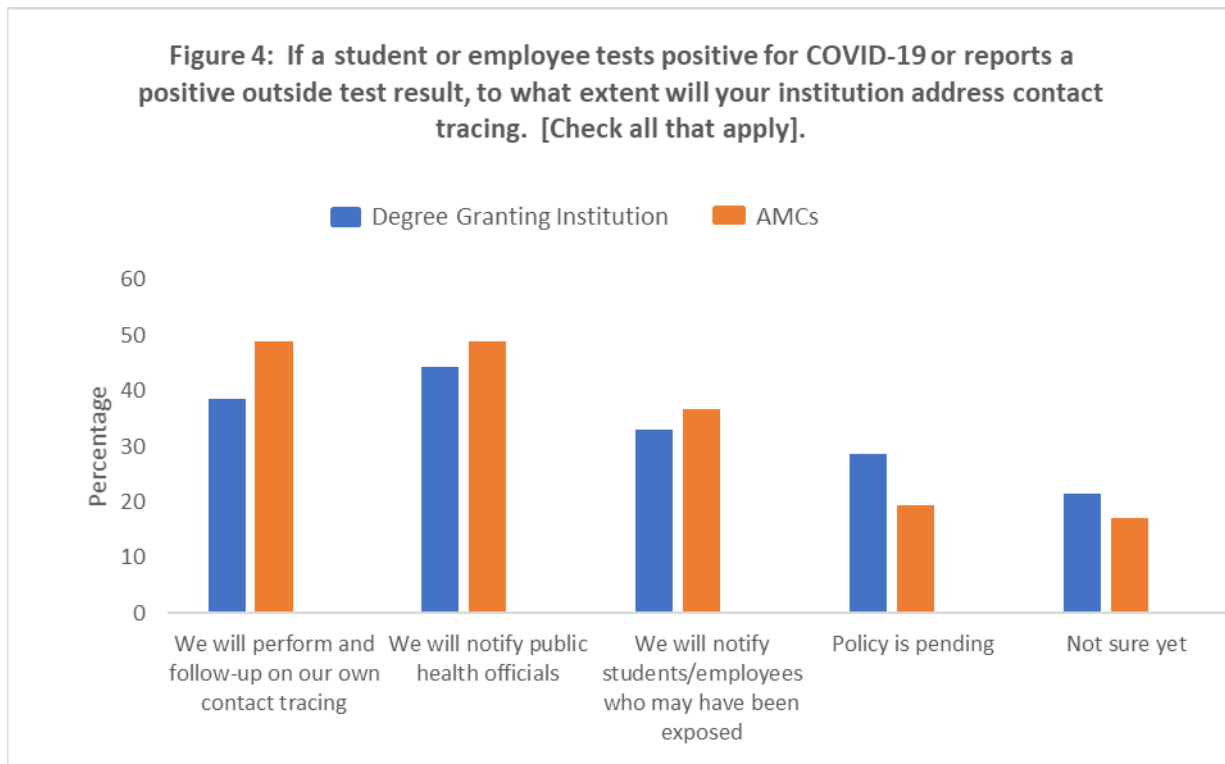


As institutions have reopened, on-campus research activity has correspondingly increased. In Pulse 2, a majority of degree-granting institutions with and without affiliated AMCs reported 40% on-campus research activity (assuming that pre-pandemic on-campus activity was at 100%). [See **Figure 2** below]. This is a substantial increase from Pulse 1 in which more than two-thirds of institutions reported research activity at no higher than 40%.



❖ **Institutions are employing COVID-19 testing as a part of their reopening strategies**

Pulse 2 included a series of questions regarding whether and how institutions were implementing COVID-19 testing as a part of their campus reopening plans. Responses to these questions indicate that a majority of responders are incorporating some type of COVID-testing and contact tracing in their plans. Results from some of the questions regarding testing are shown below in **Figures 3 and 4**.



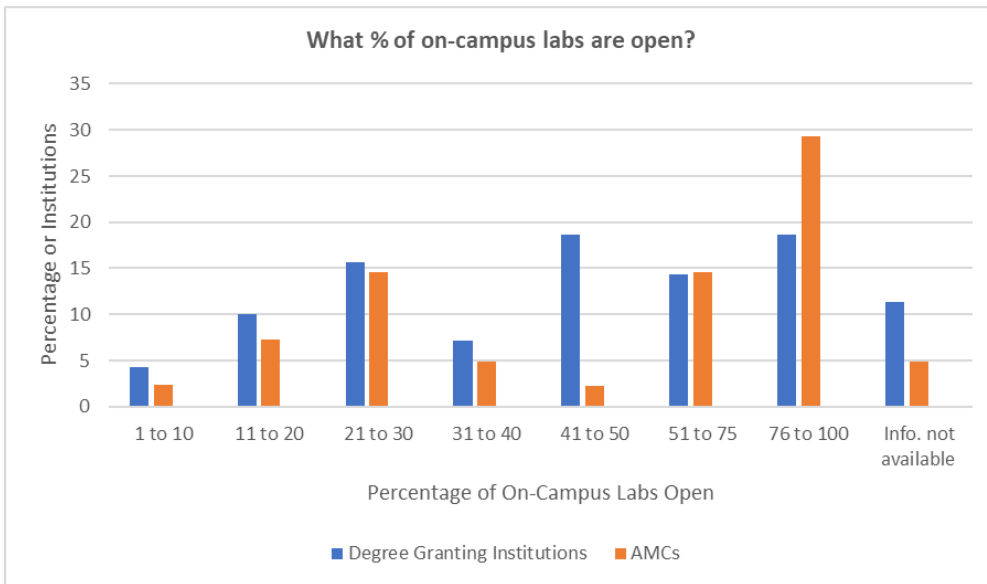
❖ **COVID-19 has taken a financial toll on institutions**

In Pulse 1 institutions were asked whether they had initiated, planned or considered furloughs, layoffs, salary freezes or pay cuts for research faculty and staff. 55% of the institutions that responded stated that salary freezes or pay cuts had already occurred, and 25% of the institutions reported that furloughs or layoffs had occurred. Both these numbers increased in Pulse 2 with 45% of institutions reporting that furloughs or layoffs had been implemented and 78% reporting that salary freezes or pay cuts occurred. An additional 18 institutions reported that salary freezes/pay cuts were planned, and 12 reported planned furloughs/layoffs. Finally, 53 institutions reported that they were considering either furloughs/layoffs and/or salary cuts/freezes.

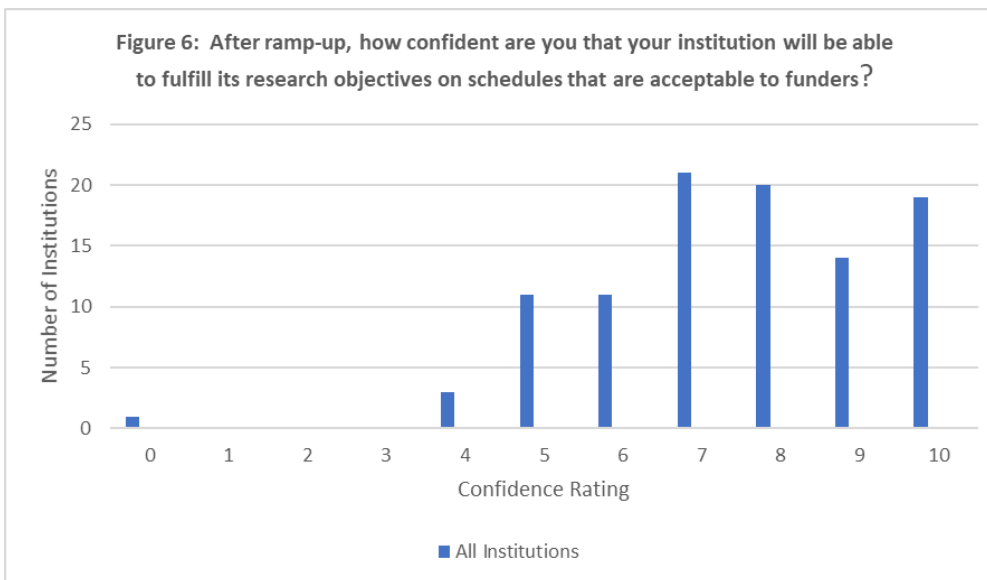
❖ **Despite COVID’s negative impact, research institutions remain optimistic about accomplishing research goals.**

In Pulse 2, 83.1% of degree granting institutions reported that the reopening of campus-based research has occurred or is underway, up from 77.8% in Pulse 1. This reopening includes the reopening of a substantial percentage of campus labs as shown below in **Figure 5**.

--



Accordingly, at this point institutions are fairly confident that they will be able to meet research objectives on schedule, as shown by responses to the question in **Figure 6** below from Pulse 1.



**Conclusion:**

Pulse Survey 1 and 2 reflect widespread reopening and optimism about being able to attain research objectives if reopening activities remain on track. Given rising disease rates in many parts of the country, however, there is considerable uncertainty about whether reopening activities may need to be paused or slowed. We expect to see additional information in this regard from our upcoming Pulse Surveys. If you have questions about this report or the survey, please contact Kristin West, COGR's Research and Ethics Compliance Director at [kwest@cogr.edu](mailto:kwest@cogr.edu).

**Resources**

For more information regarding COVID-19's Impact to Campuses, please visit COGR's web page on [Institutional and Agency Responses to COVID-19 and Additional Resources](#).