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TO: SOAR Observers
FROM: Jay Elias, Director
RE: Observation Limitations
DATE: October 3, 2020 (revised, final)

This is to advise all SOAR observers that we are imposing additional restrictions on our support as we cautiously resume operations during the pandemic. Specifically:

- In order to minimize interaction between the telescope operators/observer support and the day crew, we are delaying the daily arrival of the night crew at the summit. Accordingly,
 - We may have difficulties in completing complex set-ups; please submit requests well in advance of your run, and be prepared to scale back if asked. Otherwise we may have to delay calibrations past the normal start time of 1600h; the operator's dinner schedule will be less flexible than in the past.
 - We cannot support requests for early starts for calibrations, and we also cannot support calibrations at the end of the night, such as additional twilight flats or dome flats. If you need one last arc or quartz spectrum, that would be OK, but please allow the operators time to complete closure of the telescope and cleaning of their work area.
- The first and second operators will now be working one at a time at the telescope, with one person connected remotely during the overlap period. In some circumstances, that person may be able to come to the telescope to help with diagnosis and repairs of problems, but responses will be slower and activities that require two people working in close proximity will be left for the day crew. This may result in lost telescope time.
- We will evaluate these restrictions once we have a few weeks of experience. This does not mean that we are promising to lift them. We may make adjustments to the daily schedule in the interests of both efficiency and staff safety.

I appreciate your understanding as we attempt to do science in these difficult times, while also protecting our staff.

We also understand that many observers may be subject to similar restrictions, which may limit their ability to observe efficiently.