**Question emailed to OSTP:**

The memorandum states that OSTP “recommends” agencies update their policies so that federally funded research papers are publicly accessible without an embargo. Does this mean that agencies could choose to still retain an embargo period?

**Email response from OSTP spokesperson on Aug. 30, 2022:**

Under Section 3 of the 2022 OSTP Memorandum on Public Access (2022 Memorandum), all Federal agencies that conduct or fund research and development (R&D) should develop new, or update existing, public access plans. This policy guidance seeks to end the current optional embargo that allows scientific publishers to put taxpayer-funded research behind a subscription-based paywall – which can block access for innovators, even barring scientists and their academic institutions from access to their own research findings. The new public access guidance was developed with the input of multiple federal agencies over the course of the last year, to enable progress on a number of Biden-Harris Administration priorities.

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Open Science will be the coordinating body and provide support to agencies in the implementation process moving forward. In the short-term, agencies will work with OSTP to update their public access and data sharing plans by mid-2023. OSTP expects all agencies to have updated public access policies fully implemented by December 2025 to place this research in agency-maintained, online, free public repositories. This timeline gives agencies, researchers, publishers, and scholarly societies some flexibility on when to adapt to the new policies.