

Subject: Essential Research Guidance: March 23, 2020
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From: Buckallew, Sara Marquez
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Priority: High
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From: Losh, Megan <meglosh@iu.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 11:09 PM
To: Subject: FW: Essential Research Guidance: March 23, 2020
Importance: High

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To IU Animal Researchers,

As you know, Indiana University has recently restricted in-person research to “Essential Research Activities,” in compliance with the Governor’s executive order. Research activities that can be conducted remotely are not affected by this decision, but in-person research activities that do not meet the definition of “Essential Research Activities” will have to be wound down as soon as possible, and no later than this **Friday, March 27, 2020**.

The definition of **Essential Research Activities** is broad and comprises two categories of activities:

1. Essential Research

- Work that directly relates to preventing, containing, or treating the COVID-19 pandemic
- Clinical trials and other research that if discontinued would have a significant negative impact on human health or patient care
- Work that directly relates to national security
- Agricultural research with critical implications for human and animal health or food security
- Activity that if discontinued would pose a safety hazard
- Laboratory or field work where discontinuation would result in loss of significant data and samples
- Longitudinal or seasonal work where discontinuation would result in loss of significant data or samples

2. Essential Support Activities for Research

- Work to maintain critical equipment, whether in stand-by mode or operational
- Work to maintain critical plant populations, tissue cultures, bacteria, archaea, animal populations (those non-commercially available), and other living organisms
- Research administration, compliance, and other support functions required by law

Based on the advice of the IACUC chairs and directors and the attending veterinarians, and with their approval, I am asking each Principal Investigator who conducts research with animals to comply with the following guidance.

The governing principle of this guidance is that most ongoing experiments and those planned with animals currently in-house should be considered essential; we do not want to unnecessarily euthanize any animals as long as work can continue safely in accordance with CDC guidelines, university policy, and approved IACUC protocols.

It is recognized that the guidance below will impact productivity and we will strive to assist you in limiting these conditions for the shortest amount of time possible. As of now, the following guidance is in place until **Friday, May 15, 2020**, with no return to normal operation until directed otherwise.

Ongoing Experiments

Ongoing experiments involving animals currently in-house can continue consistent with approved IACUC protocols. If possible, please prioritize using these animals for experiments that do not include significant procedures, which require laboratory/LARC/LAR personnel (such as imaging, surgeries, dosing, behavioral testing, etc.). If you have the ability to use animals for such non-labor-intensive experiments, but these aren't currently on your IACUC protocol, please submit an amendment and secure IACUC approval before engaging in this work.

Survival surgeries should be limited, if possible. If additional personnel restrictions are put in place in the future, there may not be capacity to administer post-analgesic drugs in accordance with protocols and veterinary medicine best practices. If timelines need to be adjusted, please consider an amendment to your protocol.

If you feel that experiments are unlikely to be able to be completed due to restrictions in personnel or availability of equipment, please consider how modifications can be made to your approved protocol to continue collecting useful data, using in house animals.

Please continue the process of identifying "priority" cages/animals so that LARC and LAR management will have a way to identify the priority cages ready to mobilize if the threat level reaches that point. Contact Dr. Hickman (Indy) or Dr. Rogers (Bloomington) for direction on how to identify priority cages.

The local IACUCs have the capacity to review minor adjustments to experimental timelines on an expedited basis to help researchers best utilize currently in-house animals.

For all research involving animals, you are still required by IACUC policy and federal regulations to follow your approved protocols. **Euthanizing animals other than as expressly permitted under those protocols is prohibited unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian.**

New Experiments

Any new work directly related to COVID-19 or other Essential Research will be allowed to proceed, provided that the work can be performed safely in accordance with CDC guidelines, university policy, and approved IACUC protocols.

Before engaging in any new experiments with animals, please communicate directly with your attending veterinarian and IACUC director.

Breeding

Reduce breeding to levels sufficient to maintain lines (for most lines, this means only 2-3 breeding cages should be maintained). In most cases, this will mean separating many existing breeders.

Orders

No new orders of animals will be placed

No outgoing or incoming shipments of animals from other universities or non-academic institutions should take place.

Quarantine

Animals currently in quarantine will remain on schedule and once the quarantined period has been satisfied, will be moved to standard housing

Transportation between Facilities

Transportation of animals between facilities will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Please contact Indianapolis School of Medicine LARC or Bloomington LAR transportation services to discuss your current and/or near future needs.

PPE

As you are aware, there is a serious shortage of PPE. Please ONLY use PPE when required. If you have any extra PPE, please consider donating it to the vivarium.

For Approved Satellite Facilities

- If you do not have any animals currently housed in your area, do not start any new experiments.
- For those of you who have animals housed in your approved satellite facilities, please work with your Attending Veterinarian to come up with a plan in case your staff become ill and are not able to care for the animals housed in the satellite facility.
- If you are caring for your animals without the help of the vivarium staff, please e-mail your Attending Veterinarian on a daily basis to confirm you were able to care for the animals.

Minimize Transmission of COVID-19

Please follow the below steps to minimize transmission of COVID-19 when conducting Essential Research involving animals:

- Follow CDC guidelines and IU policy designed to reduce the spread of coronavirus (e.g., washing hands frequently, use of hand sanitizer with 60% or greater active ingredient, social distancing, etc.)
- To help prevent COVID-19 infections in the animal care staff, please limit access to the animal facility to as few people as possible.
- To reduce the opportunity for vivarium and laboratory staff to be exposed at the same time and to become ill at the same time, please implement varying schedules so that LAR/C and research staff are not present at the same time.
- Do NOT come to work if you sick. Ask someone else in the lab if they can take care of your animals. However, any of us could have the virus right now and not know it. Therefore, it is extremely important to follow the rules to keep from infecting others.

For Further Information

If you have questions about how best to proceed with experiments and/or protocols, please feel free to reach out to any of the following:

Indianapolis:

[Deb Hickman](#) – Attending Veterinarian

[Megan Losh](#) – IACUC Director

[Matt Allen](#) – IACUC Chair

Bloomington:

Karen Rogers – Attending Veterinarian

Susan Glowacz – IACUC Manager

Lisa Kamendulis – IACUC Chair

Thank you very much for your partnership in this important work, your cooperation, and your compliance with this important guidance.

Fred H. Cate

Vice President for Research, Distinguished Professor and C. Ben Dutton Professor of Law

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