

# Animal Related Research Plan

The Department of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) and Research and Sponsored Programs have carefully developed a plan that allows researchers to safely continue animal work while minimizing transmission of COVID-19.

**Important: If you or someone you know is having symptoms of COVID-19 or has had contact with someone diagnosed as being COVID-19 positive, please notify your supervisor immediately after you have contacted your health care professional.**

<b>Starting May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b> <b>Stay at Home Restriction in Place</b>	<b>Date yet to be determined</b> <b>Open with Limitations</b>	<b>Date yet to be determined</b> <b>Opened with</b> <b>New Standard</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only <b>Approved “Research Operation Plans”</b> that include animal research can start work. [Chair/Dean/RSP(IACUC) approval required.]</li> <li>• Only approved COVID/Essential Laboratory personnel may enter DLAR.</li> <li>• Mask and gloves required in all DLAR spaces</li> <li>• Continued 6 feet distancing from each other.</li> <li>• <a href="#">On-line reservations required</a> for animal/procedure room activities. Limited occupancy to each room.</li> <li>• <b>May 11<sup>th</sup>, rodent breeding</b> can start. Essential researchers/COVID personnel will manage breeding colonies, DLAR can also assist.</li> <li>• <b>May 18<sup>th</sup>, animal ordering</b> can resume, with delivery as early as the following week (May 18<sup>th</sup>).</li> <li>• <b>May 25<sup>th</sup>, animal imports/exports</b> can resume, pending approval from other institutions.</li> <li>• Researchers &amp; DLAR continued sanitization of high touch points.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue limited &amp; approved research projects only.</li> <li>• All IACUC-approved personnel may enter DLAR.</li> <li>• Animal handling training begins for new personnel (limited 2-4 trainees/class).</li> <li>• Researchers start to manage their own breeding colonies and special diets.</li> <li>• Continued mask and gloves requirement within DLAR</li> <li>• Continued 6 feet distancing from each other</li> <li>• Continued on-line reservations required and limited occupancy to each animal/procedure room</li> <li>• Continued sanitization of high touch points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All research projects can resume.</li> <li>• Standard PPE as posted</li> <li>• Lifting occupancy limitations</li> <li>• Standard sanitization practices</li> </ul>

## **“Stay at Home Restriction in Place”: Starting May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. No work may begin until laboratory Research Operation Plans are approved by the Chair and Dean and then submitted to the RSP/IACUC office. This including current ongoing essential work which needs to be part of your laboratory reentry plan. The checklist and submission forms for gaining approved research status can be found on the [RSP Website](#).
  - a. For new animal research, approval must be secured prior to the start of animal work.
  - b. For current ongoing critical research, you must seek re-approval even though you may have communicated that prior to the IACUC.
  - c. New and existing animal research must have an *approved “Research Operating Plan”* for any animal research.
2. Respiratory protection **MUST** always be worn in the animal facility. DLAR will supply disposable medical masks at the entry to the vivarium.
3. Gloves must always be worn in the animal facility. DLAR will supply at the entrances to the vivarium.

4. Researchers **cannot enter DLAR unless they have electronically reserved** time slots for specific areas. Animal/procedure rooms have electronic calendars in Outlook<sup>®</sup>. See [DLAR's website](#) for directions.
  - a. Researchers must reserve rooms for the length of time they will be present in the room. *Please make sure to use that time, as others also need to use the room.*
  - b. Animal/procedure rooms are limited to 1 research person per laminar flow hood (LFH). *Examples:*
    - i. Animal Room 050F has 2 LFH (Hood #1 & Hood #2). A maximum of 2 researchers are allowed in the room and they must sign up for one of the two hoods. While working in the room they must practice the 6-foot social distancing rule.
    - ii. Procedure room 047 is small and confined, therefore only 1 researcher at a time. If your procedure requires more than one person, you **must** seek DLAR's approval before starting.
5. Physical distancing of 6 feet in all areas of DLAR (hallways, animal/procedure rooms & offices).
6. Equipment entering the vivarium must be disinfected upon entry. DLAR will supply disinfectant.
7. Researchers must disinfect work areas before starting and after. Examples: LFH buttons, isoflurane knobs, tables/counter tops, handles to drawers, cabinets and carts
8. **May 11<sup>th</sup>**, all rodent breeding may resume. Researchers who have been identified as essential personnel/COVID personnel may resume their breeding colonies. DLAR can assist if needed.
9. **May 18<sup>th</sup>**, animal ordering may resume for those researchers who have been identified as essential personnel or COVID personnel and have an Approved "Research Operation Plan".
10. **May 25<sup>th</sup>**, Imports and exports of animals can also resume for those researchers who have been identified as essential personnel or COVID personnel, with approval of the other institutions.

**"University Opens with Limitations": Starting (Date yet to be determined)**

1. DLAR hands on training starts back up. Smaller classes and additional PPE will be required for the training. Due to smaller class sizes, weekly trainings will be offered. Limited to Approved Research Operation Plan approved research only, with approval by the Chairs and Deans.
2. DLAR orientation resumed via remote online learning. Researchers can take the orientation training online and pass a quiz on the material to pass orientation requirements.
3. Research laboratories manage their own rodent breeding. Alternatively, DLAR will support breeding on a fee-for-service basis.
4. Researchers are responsible for their own special diets. Alternatively, DLAR will support on a fee-for-service basis.
5. Still limited to approved research projects only.
6. Respiratory protection and glove requirements continue.
7. Physical distancing continues.
8. Disinfection of equipment, work areas and high touch objects continues.

**"University opened With New Standards: Starting (Date yet to be determined)**

1. Respiratory protection required in designated rooms as posted.
2. Standard disinfection as outlined in the SOPs prior to COVID 19.
3. May continue electronic reservations on animal/procedure spaces.

5/11/20