

ANIMAL RESEARCH RAMP-UP: PHASE 1

Guiding Principles

- Reopening research involving the use of animal subjects must involve strong collaboration, communication and coordination between researchers and the Office of Animal Resources.
- The health and safety of study teams, OAR animal care and veterinary staff, and animal subjects remain the priority.
- Researchers using animals must follow all University of Iowa and Public Health guidance for social distancing as much as possible.
- The situation remains fluid and researchers must be prepared for the possibility that we may need to ramp down research activities again in the future.
- COVID-19 research will continue to be prioritized and exempt from research restrictions

Animal Research Ramp-up Guidance: Phase 1

To be implemented only as UIHC/Carver College of Medicine approves PI ramp-up plans and pilots approved by collegiate Associate Deans for Research in coordination with the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT).

General Guidance

- Limited to no more than 50% research capacity in accordance with CIMT guidance
- Keep in mind there's a high probability for research ramp-down directives; new studies could be interrupted
- Guidance applies to CCOM research ramp-up pilot and additional buildings as they are approved by the CIMT
- Animal shipment arrival times may take longer than under normal conditions; orders may need to be staggered while ramping up animal receiving and housing capacity.

Entering and working in the animal facility

- **NO undergraduate staff entry into animal facilities**
- Signage will be posted to indicate requirements to enter and work in each facility
- Research Staff access
 - ***Each lab must designate 2 primary lab members to enter animal facilities*** to conduct studies in the facility or remove animals to the lab
- Required PPE to enter/work in the animal facility

- **Face shield and/or face mask must be worn at all times** as prescribed by the CIMT
- Face shield must be in good repair/condition and clean
- *If entering a barrier animal facility*
 - Face shield must be cleaned prior to entry into the animal facility if any potential exposure to rodents was possible
 - Face shields may be cleaned in the lab or CCOM cleaning stations prior to entry
 - Face masks must be changed/replaced prior to entry into the animal facility if any potential exposure to rodents was possible
 - *Examples*
 - Staff member entering the facility was conducting animal experiments outside the barrier animal facility using the currently worn face shield and/or mask
 - Other staff in the lab space was conducting animal experiments with rodents
- ***Face shield and/or facemask provided by the lab cannot be worn in biocontainment animal holding rooms (ABSL2) or biocontainment procedural spaces***
 - OAR provided PPE must be worn to access/enter these locations
 - Hang your face shield and/or facemask on a hook provided by the PPE stations
 - Label your face shields or facemask to prevent confusion
 - Consult with a facility supervisor if you have questions
- Social distancing directives must be followed
 - **OAR staff**, including but not limited to husbandry and veterinary staff, **have priority to enter and work in animal rooms or procedural spaces**
 - A calendar is posted outside animal rooms and procedural spaces to schedule access times
 - Limited staff (OAR and/or research staff) must be present in animal rooms or procedural spaces
 - **Maximum/no more than 2 staff members per room at any time**
 - Some small animal rooms or procedural spaces may only accommodate 1 person at a time
 - Per CIMT guidance, rooms that are 150 sq. ft or less can only have one person working within the space
 - OAR will post a notice on these rooms to alert staff and note when OAR staff is actively working in the room
 - *If a staff member is not able to follow these social distancing guidelines, the staff member cannot enter animal/procedural rooms when other research staff or OAR staff are present inside/within them*

Study and Cohort Prioritization

- COVID-19 research will continue to be prioritized and exempt from research restrictions.
- Length of studies
 - Approved length of new studies/new animal cohorts in ongoing studies conducted with existing animals housed in the facilities is up to 14 days. **Proposals for resuming studies are not required but violations may result in suspension of research**
 - A short descriptive proposal for studies with longer timelines (exceeds 14 days in length/duration) can be submitted to Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for consideration
- Use of Cores
 - Limited use of Core services (ex: Metabolic Phenotyping Core, Small Animal Imaging Core (SAIC))
 - *Use and capacity at the discretion of Core directors*
- Hazard work
 - Non-survival Hazard work may be conducted
 - **Limited survival hazard work**
 - **Short term projects or those with reduced animal monitoring schedules may be allowed**
 - Short descriptive proposal can be submitted to Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for consideration
 - *Examples of short term hazardous work that may be allowed:*
 - Injections of chemical agents such as Tamoxifen, BrdU or its analogs
 - Administration/inoculation with biological hazardous agents such as AAV, Adenovirus, other biological agents
 - Administration of radioisotopes with short half lives
- Surgery
 - Non-survival Surgery may be conducted
 - **Limited Survival Surgery**
 - **Short term projects or less invasive surgeries may be allowed**
 - Short descriptive proposal can be submitted to Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for consideration
 - *Examples of short term or less invasive surgical procedures that may be allowed:*
 - Intracranial injections without the need to use dental cement to attach leads/cannulas
 - Subcutaneous implants of mini-pumps, intravenous catheters, drug pellets or tumors
 - Subcutaneous implants of telemeters
- Animal Housing
 - **NO satellite housing**
 - Animal housing limited to approved rooms within animal facilities
- Animal orders
 - **Animal orders for replacement breeders** (those needed to cross with unique transgenic lines) **will be allowed**

- Animal order receiving capacity limited to no more than 50% of average weekly orders per facility
 - Order numbers will be determined by facility
 - Order arrival dates may be delayed if receiving capacity per facility is reached may be allowed
 - Email Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for approval
 - **Limited new animal cohort orders** (for the first 2-4 weeks or longer as needed)
 - Animal order receiving capacity limited to no more than 50% of average weekly orders per facility
 - Order numbers will be determined by facility
 - Priority will be given to orders requesting replacement breeders
 - Order arrival dates may be delayed if receiving capacity per facility is reached
 - Email Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for approval
 - **Limited animal orders for incoming USDA covered species associated with ongoing studies**
 - *Examples*
 - Genetically modified animals for phenotype monitoring
 - Animals obtained for terminal procedures
- Breeding restrictions
 - **Current breeding restrictions in place**
 - Suspension of breeding commercially available animals continues
 - Breeding colonies for unique strains continues on reduced numbers as much as possible to maintain line viability
 - Limited breeding of unique lines to produce experimental animals
 - Email Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for approval
 - **Breeding to generate embryos for study may be allowed**
 - Generation and harvest of fish and frog embryos for study will be considered
 - Generation of other species embryos for study will be considered
 - Email Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for approval
- Animal transfers
 - **Limited animal transfers to other investigators, rooms or facilities allowed with prior approval**
 - OAR staff will conduct all animal transfer to other rooms, facilities or Core housing spaces
 - All animal transfers between non-barrier animal facilities and rooms within a non-barrier facility require approval from a veterinarian prior to the animal movement
 - Some Core procedural housing spaces are exempt from this requirement
 - Please refer to <https://animal.research.uiowa.edu/rodent-transfers> for detailed information on transfer procedures

- **Limited animal transfers for USDA covered species associated with ongoing studies**
 - *Examples*
 - Genetically modified animals for phenotype monitoring
 - Animals obtained for terminal procedures
- Interinstitutional animal shipments
 - Priority will be given to new PIs relocating to our institution or labs with approved COVID-19 research
 - Limited housing capacity for incoming quarantine shipments
 - Animal exports to other institutions allowed
- Training labs, tours
 - **NO Facility training tours**
 - **NO OAR managed or supported training labs**
- Drug/supply orders
 - Limited drug/supply orders to support projects following research restriction directives

NOTE: The Office of Animal Resources continues to have limited administrative staff on site; the main office doors will remain closed. Do not hesitate to ask questions by phone or email.