

## ANIMAL RESEARCH RAMP-UP: PHASE 2

### 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 2

#### General Guidance

- **Specific research proposals to resume IACUC-approved studies are NOT required under Phase 2.**
- **Some limitations on animal orders, breeding and transfers remain in place;** see specific guidance below
- 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 changes)

- **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*** at one time 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 – Section updated for Phase 2**

- COVID-19 research will continue to be prioritized and exempt from research restrictions.
- Length of studies

- No restriction on length of studies being conducted
- 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 and Survival Hazard work may be conducted
- Surgery
  - Non-survival surgery and Survival surgery may be conducted
- 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 continue to be prioritized*
  - New animal cohort orders allowed
  - Animal order receiving capacity limited to no more than **75%** 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
    - Approval to order animals is not needed; orders will be taken on a first-come, first served basis
  - **Limited animal orders for incoming USDA covered species associated with ongoing studies**
    - Prior approval required
    - Email Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for approval
- 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
  - **Breeding to generate embryos for study allowed**
    - Generation and harvest of fish and frog embryos for study allowed
    - Generation of other species embryos for study allowed
    - Approval not required
- Animal transfers
  - **Animal transfers to other investigators, rooms or facilities allowed**
  - **Prior approval required for transfers between non-barrier animal facilities and rooms as standard**
    - 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**
    - Prior approval required

- Email Drs. Jim Sheets and Maria Martino-Cardona for approval
- Interinstitutional animal shipments
  - Priority will *continue to 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
    - Prior approval not required
- Training labs, tours
  - **Limited facility training tours**
  - **Limited OAR managed or supported training labs**
- Drug/supply orders
  - Drug/supply orders reinstated

**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.**