

ANIMAL RESEARCH RAMP-UP: PHASE 3

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 3

General Guidance

- Specific research proposals to resume IACUC-approved studies are NOT required under Phase 3.
- **Some limitations on animal orders, undergraduate student access, 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 – Section updated for Phase 3*

- **NO undergraduate staff entry into animal facilities***
 - *If you are an undergraduate student employee that forms an integral part of a research program on campus, please email: oar-veterinarian@uiowa.edu with your lab's approved return to campus plan, detailing your duties and departmental approval to be on-campus.*
 - *This request will be evaluated by an OAR veterinarian.*
 - *Limiting undergraduate student access to an animal facility is imperative to decrease staff populations within an animal room*
- 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 any 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 building face shield 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 to maintain compliance with sanitation standards and animal program requirements**
 - 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 3*

- 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*
 - Satellite housing in IACUC approved spaces allowed*
- 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 **100%** of pre-ramp down 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
 - Return to standard procedures for animal orders for incoming USDA covered species*
- 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

- Return to standard procedures for animal transfers for USDA covered species*
- 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.