

June 5, 2020

Dear Animal Research Community:

We want to thank each of you for the actions you have taken over the past months to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Maintaining research operations during this time has presented a number of difficulties and you have risen to the challenges presented. The health, safety, and well-being of our community must continue to be at the forefront of our decisions – including the animals in our care – as we now work to return to research operations.

Today, we are sharing important updates that address research projects involving animals. These updates reflect safety enhancement efforts that have taken place over the past month within more than 100 Purdue (and Purdue-leased) buildings and spaces where research takes place, on and off the West Lafayette campus. These safety enhancements included assessments of public spaces within each building (including lobbies, restrooms, conference rooms, lounge areas, etc.). Following each assessment, COVID-19 safety enhancements have been widely implemented, with any remaining public space safety enhancements expected to be completed shortly.

We have now begun the process of reviewing and approving COVID-19 Research Space Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for each specific space where research takes place within these buildings. The review and approval process will be completed in a gradual manner, spanning the month of June. More information on this process can be found [here](#).

Consistent with our phased return to research operations, animal researchers are advised of the following updates:

- Orders to acquire new animals from vendors, which have been suspended since March 16 for all but critical research, can be placed beginning on June 15, 2020.
- There are no longer curtailments on the breeding of species/strains that are commercially available from major vendors.
- New experiments and activities that are not time-sensitive and of longer duration may now proceed, but we request that you continue to minimize the number of compromised animals that would require attention and care if research again must be reduced to essential operations on short notice.

At this point, we assume that all animal researchers have done the following in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- You have developed and are maintaining a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) that can be fully actionable on short notice (template can be found [here](#)).
- You have Identified key individuals in your group who can manage essential procedures for approved active protocols, and provide daily animal husbandry if CMAF lacks adequate staffing to do so.
- You have identified animals on your protocols that are the most critical to save in the highly unlikely event that an emergency reduction in population is necessary.

We appreciate your continued efforts to advance the university's research mission while also bearing in mind the critical responsibility we all have to continue to help keep Purdue safe. Please direct any questions regarding animal care to Bill Ferner (ferner@purdue.edu) and regarding animal use to Janice Kritchevsky (sojkaje@purdue.edu).

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Agnew
Associate Vice President for Research, Regulatory Affairs

Janice E. Kritchevsky
Chair, Purdue Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

William T. Ferner
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