



The [COVID-19 Guidance for Researchers](#) page is updated continuously with information on several topics. Refresh the page when it loads to see the latest updates. If you are still not seeing the latest updates, try viewing the website through a private browser window.

Below are immediate action items that groups should take.

Immediate Steps for All Members of the Research Community:

- Attend the [Virtual VCR Town Hall](#) for detailed and technical guidance on areas of research. There will be presenters from EHS, HRPO, Animal Care, and other groups to address specific questions. Submit questions in advance by [completing this survey](#).
- Do not come to work if you are sick.
- Wash hands frequently for 20 seconds.
- Practice social distancing. Reduce meetings, use videoconferencing, work in shifts, keep at least six (6) feet between personnel, and work remotely if possible.
- Enhance cleaning of shared instruments and surfaces (phones, lab equipment, benches, doorknobs, etc...). Use a disinfectant that is safe and appropriate for the item. Follow the [CDC's Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations for Laboratories](#).

Additional Steps for Faculty, Directors, and Managers:

- Identify essential personnel.
- Ensure personnel have remote access to files and data.
- Create an emergency contact list for your research staff to ensure communication within your group.
- Develop a [continuity plan](#) that includes contingencies for “alternate operations” or “full closure”.
- Create an essential staff coverage plan.
- For high-level operational planning, attend the [Emergency Management workshops](#) for general guidance on business operations planning for their labs. The workshops do not have detailed technical information.
- View specific guidance, FAQs, and resources on the [COVID-19 Guidance for Researchers](#).

Immediate Steps for Those Working with Animals:

- Delay new projects and refrain from setting up new breeding cages.
- Prioritize experiments based on available laboratory staff and resources.

Immediate Steps for Those Conducting Human Subjects Research:

- Assess staff availability and determine if any suspension of studies and associated impacts to research.
- While we have used Zoom for video meetings within our campus, it is prohibited for patient visits. Zoom can be used among our team members to collaborate internally on patient care issues, but is not meant for direct patient care and shouldn't be used for study patients follow-up visits. Instead use telephone visits where appropriate.

For clinical trials, suspend non-essential research visits.

- Non-essential visits can still be done remotely as feasible

Submit a modification to the IRB if necessary.

- The [HRPO and IRB FAQs](#) clarifies which “changes in the research” require a modification submission to the IRB.