

March 23, 2020

To: DAR Animal Facility Users

From: Lyndon J. Goodly, DVM, DACLAM

Subject: Activation to Level 2 of the UIUC DAR Response Plan for Pandemic Disease Outbreak

As you know, the Governor issued an Executive Order this past Saturday for all individuals living in Illinois to stay at home and our university leadership has issued mandatory [guidance](#) that all research activities on campus, in the field, and at auxiliary sites must now ramp down to conduct only essential activities.

**Consequently, we are NOW at Level 2 of the DAR Response Plan for Pandemic Disease Outbreak.**

**Effectively immediately:**

- DAR will provide, indefinitely, only **maintenance (feed, water, clean caging)** of animal colonies at DAR Animal Facilities. Some routine husbandry procedures may be altered or postponed depending on staff availability.
- **No additional studies/experiments may begin.** That is, **no procedures should be performed on naïve animals**, so that we may minimize the number of animals requiring daily care.
- Ongoing experiments/studies **in which significant data would be lost if discontinued** can be **allowed to continue**, *provided researchers can safely adhere to public health guidelines*. This is dependent on approval by your unit executive officer per [guidance](#) defining “essential research” released on March 21<sup>st</sup> and that you adhere to [guidance](#) for research personnel released on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Researchers responsible for **feeding their own animal colonies should continue** with these duties (if safe to do so) **or arrange, in advance, with DAR staff** to take over these responsibilities. Request this service by emailing [daradministrators@illinois.edu](mailto:daradministrators@illinois.edu) to document this change.
- **Orders** to acquire additional animals **will no longer be accepted**. Pending orders that have not been shipped to arrive this week will be terminated.
- Shipments from/to vendors or other collaborating institutions are cancelled, unless cancellation will negatively impact animal welfare. For example, incoming animal shipments that are already in process will still be received.
- To expedite the ramp-down process *PIs should reduce their animal inventories (if possible)* to minimize the number of animals requiring daily care.

- The **breeding of species/strains that are not commercially available should be minimized** to the number of animals needed to maintain the colony and ramp back up to the needs of your research projects when the crisis has end.
- It is mandated that elective activities or experiments that are not time sensitive are immediately postponed.

Please complete and review your continuity plans as requested in my memorandum dated March 17, 2020. Continuity plans should address the potential of you and/or your staff becoming ill or unable to carry out your responsibilities. Review your contact information and update it if necessary, so that DAR staff may reach you in a timely fashion should questions arise.

I am asking you to exercise your most prudent judgement in defining essential research, in consultation with your unit executive officer, to decide whether to continue existing work or postpone these studies until after the current Public Health restrictions are reduced. Please ramp-down in an orderly manner as quickly as possible. I realize that these are hard decisions but your health and safety, and that of your staff, dedicated DAR staff, and the welfare of our research animals are foremost on my mind.

Feel free to contact me or the DAR Supervisors if you have questions or we can assist in anyway.

Stay safe and Godspeed.

