

## Essential On-campus Research – Update March 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for all your efforts to help curb the spread of coronavirus. Those of you, who are conducting approved essential research activities on campus, please remember to exercise care following the guidance from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>).

Please minimize your time on campus and the time spent physically working with others. Remember to maintain a distance of at least six feet from others whenever possible. Finally, keep safety in mind and ensure that there are at least two trained persons present for any potentially hazardous operations.

Consistent with the message from Provost Kotlikoff and Vice President Opperman sent on March 21, 2020, essential on-campus research functions include:

- COVID-19 research that has the potential to mitigate the spread of the pandemic. Note that the work has to be reviewed by the [Rapid Research Response](#) team and be approved by the investigator(s) department Chair.
- Performing critical operations that require regular attention from an individual to maintain laboratory viability and ensure lab safety. That includes providing animal support, preserving unique reagents and other resources and maintaining equipment that requires monitoring or service (e.g. gas supply or cryogenic conditions). Please plan these procedures in advance to minimize the amount of time spent in the lab and in the presence of your coworkers.
- Completing shutdown procedures. Any additional shutdown procedures need to be completed by March 22.

Faculty with concerns about availability of personnel to carry out any of these critical functions should consult with their department chair or building manager. Please note that no animals, plants, specimens, or sensitive equipment should be removed from laboratories. You may take home computers, electronic storage devices, and lab notebooks.

It is important to remember that under no circumstances should graduate students or postdocs be required to go into the laboratory or perform any essential research tasks against their will. Students with concerns should contact

their Director of Graduate Studies, Department Chair, or the Dean of the Graduate School.

These are unprecedented times and the challenges we are facing are unique. We would like to underscore that these decisions were not taken lightly. They were taken carefully and soberly while recognizing the significant sacrifices required of our students, postdocs, staff and faculty and the long-term impact they will have on research at Cornell. We are grateful for your understanding and we appreciate all your efforts making the health and well-being of our community our first priority.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Giannelis  
Vice Provost for Research

Mark Hurwitz  
Interim Chief Research Compliance Officer