



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

## Division of Animal Resources

### Emory Integrated Core Facilities

**DAR 2020-03: COVID-19 and DAR Phase 2 Operations (3/25/2020)**

**Date:** March 25 2020

**From:** Michael J. Huerkamp, DVM, DAACLAM  
Director, Division of Animal Resources

In an effort to meet the needs of our stakeholders, we provide three different versions of our message. The first is a very brief, < 25 word-summary. The second is a slightly more in-depth 100-word summary. The third is detailed. We hope this approach will help you find the level of information you require.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Michael Huerkamp: 7-3248; [mhuerka@emory.edu](mailto:mhuerka@emory.edu).

#### <25 WORDS

DAR intends to be fully operational in caring for the full census during the research slowdown period and has contingencies to provide animal care in the face of staffing shortages.

#### ~100 WORDS

The DAR will be fully operational in caring for the entire census if or until COVID-19 dictates otherwise. Protecting the health of the DAR workforce is necessary to maintain research continuity. If DAR staffing drops, the plan is to increase cage change intervals for rodents and concentrate on spot-changing the most soiled cages. While investigators are not under any DAR order to depopulate, labs are encouraged to reduce and maintain census at the minimum necessary as billing will still occur. For lab-maintained breeding colonies, timely weaning and preventing cage overcrowding still apply. DAR training and support services are only available to support essential research and projects. The DAR facilities were in the process of locking down to all but essential research personnel as of 5:00 pm on Tuesday March 24, 2020.

#### <500 WORDS

Despite the research slowdown, DAR intends to be fully operational in caring for the full census if or until COVID-19 dictates otherwise. Protecting the health of the DAR workforce is necessary to maintain research continuity. If DAR staffing drops, the plan is to increase cage change intervals for rodents and concentrate on spot-changing the most soiled cages. As DAR staffing allows, the priority remains ensuring consistency in care and the environment for research. If/as staffing depletes, the focus will be on maintaining animals healthy and free of distress, but not necessarily stress (e.g., some cages may be a little more soiled than usual). If the situation becomes dire, the focus will be on keeping the most valuable animals alive. Labs should ensure accuracy of contact lists with the vet staff and leadership of the applicable DAR facilities.

- Investigators are not under any DAR order to depopulate.

Michael J. Huerkamp, DVM, DAACLAM  
Director, Division of Animal Resources  
Whitehead Biomedical Research Building  
615 Michael Street - Room G02  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

- DAR will not unilaterally depopulate colonies. Any decision in this regard would be made with university leadership, would only occur under dire circumstances, and investigators would be alerted of the prospect through regular communications from DAR.
- Understanding that billing will still occur, census should be reduced and maintained to the absolute minimum number necessary.
  - It is recommended that this planning account for an 8 week pause in research.
- As managing breeding colonies is an essential activity, timely weaning and preventing cage overcrowding still apply.
  - If events unfold such that a lab can no longer meet their obligation, DAR will be the failsafe. Please alert us.
- During these times, the expectation remains that activities will comply with the procedures and sites approved by the IACUC.
- The DAR facilities will only be accessible to PI team members working on essential/critical research as of 5:00 pm on Tuesday March 24, 2020.
  - The essential project lists are managed by the School of Medicine in close consultation with partner schools, units, departments, and PIs. For essential projects, PIs should have a plan to complete their essential research, minimize their time within DAR spaces, and practice social distancing.
  - Maintenance of these lists will be an active, ongoing process. We imagine that the essential project lists will change over time as projects are completed and research winds down.
  - Please direct any inquiries about these lists to Dr. Zwick (mzwick@emory.edu) and Josh Rosenberg (josh.rosenberg@emory.edu).

#### **DAR Services**

- Cryopreservation remains possible through the joint efforts of the TMF and DAR.
- Animal acquisitions will be limited to those projects and activities identified as essential.
- DAR training efforts will only be available in support of research that is essential.
- The DAR laboratory will operate to support clinical veterinary cases and essential research projects.
- Labs should be staffed to continue essential experimental work on their own without DAR technical assistance.
- DAR MBS cannot take on additional customers.
- Large animal surgery has closed until further notice.
- The DAR office now closes at 4:30 p.m. rather than 5:00.

#### **Other**

- There will be modifications in PPE requirements that will be shared later with essential persons.