



Wednesday, March 18, 2020

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

From Morley O. Stone, Senior Vice President

To Deans and Associate Deans of Research:

From President Drake to Provost McPheron, university leadership has requested that we immediately reduce the number of people on campus in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. We are hearing of instances where research faculty are still on campus conducting work in their labs, and this needs to be addressed immediately. **Only critical research that needs to be done in the lab should be being conducted on campus at this time.**

While there is not a standard definition for critical research, there are some guidelines that may be helpful. These guidelines are subject to change but for now critical research activities include:

- COVID-19 research that has the potential to mitigate the spread of the pandemic
- Certain medical research that if discontinued would endanger the lives of the participants in the research
- Procedures that require timely and regular attention from a person to maintain critical laboratory infrastructure and experimental conditions. For example, providing animal support, maintaining equipment that requires gas, cryogenic service, monitoring irreplaceable cell lines, and other substantially similar treatments.

For all other research, you are requested to work with your faculty to have them review the activities of their research and creative expression programs and immediately begin assigning personnel to off campus work, and ramping the research program down accordingly to accommodate this change.

In addition, faculty should have already developed contingency plans should it becomes mandatory to discontinue research activities. It is important that you are aware of and understand these contingency plans.

To help with questions, additional research guidance can be found at <https://research.osu.edu/news-events/coronavirus-and-your-research-program/>. Please share and bookmark this site. We make frequent updates to the site as new information becomes available so please check it regularly.

Thank you for your understanding and compliance during these extraordinary times.

Morley Stone, PhD  
Senior Vice President for Research