Dear Colleagues,

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues, there is rising anxiety nationally about the safety of laboratory workers and the risk of continuing lab work contributing to the spread of infection. My office posted enhanced lab safety guidelines on March 16th, and yesterday I wrote to ask for every research group leader to undertake prompt contingency planning for possible comprehensive shut down of laboratory research.

To permit a realistic assessment of the current situation at MSU, I ask recipients of this message (or their designees) already on site, to make a walk-through this afternoon of labs, shops, studios, or farm facilities they oversee. Please provide by return e-mail a frank assessment of the conditions found, categorizing results in terms of such facilities that are:

- empty,
- occupied, and compliant with social distancing, hygiene, and normal safety including appropriate personal protective equipment, or
- occupied, but non-compliant in one or more way.

Obviously, instances of non-compliance should be immediately remedied as they are discovered.

If you have questions, please call (517) 285-5646.

I realize that this is an imposition on your time or that of your designee, and I want to stress that I am not suggesting a return to campus of individuals already working at home. However, I believe the nature and credibility of the MSU decision on lab research continuation should be based on information that is credible, both to the affected units and to central administration. Your prompt help will facilitate that.

With best regards,

Stephen Hsu
Senior VP for Research and Innovation