March 17, 2020

TO: MSU Animal Research and Teaching Community

FROM: F. Claire Hankenson, DVM, MS, DACLAM
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To Members of our MSU Animal Research and Teaching Community,

All signs indicate that we are in the early stages of a serious public health crisis. An increasing number of peer institutions are implementing a pause in research to protect the research community – including the health of persons and animals involved in the research program. In conjunction with expectations delivered from President Stanley and Senior Vice President Hsu, this message includes several important updates for how animal research projects should be adjusted to align with the rapidly changing COVID-19 response measures.

Campus Animal Resources will be amending our services to maintain care for current populations of animals to the best of our abilities.

Effective immediately:

- New and additional studies/experiments should be halted in order to minimize the number of animals requiring daily care.
- Any elective procedures/surgeries or experiments that are not time sensitive should be postponed in the event that you, or a member of your laboratory staff, are no longer able to complete the study and/or continue collecting data without interruption.
- Visitors to CAR areas (contractors, etc) should complete the attached form and those persons who have traveled to potentially high risk areas in the US and internationally should not enter facilities.

In addition:

a. Animal orders, deliveries and transports –
   - Effective Friday, March 20th, orders for acquiring additional animals will no longer be accepted. CAR will be canceling all pending animal orders until further notice. In addition, Imports/Exports to collaborators will not be processed until further notice.
   - CAR has received indications from vendors about potential supply chain interruptions, and we have attempted to procure up to 3 months of food/bedding for our current population of animals.
   - Shipments from vendors or other collaborating institutions already in process will still be received.

b. Animal production –
   - Breeding should be curtailed; breeding cage set-ups separated and only critical lines (i.e., those unavailable at any vendor site) may be permitted to continue propagating.
   - Principal Investigators must alert CAR to locations of critical animals so that cages can be flagged.
   - Should any laboratory require assistance with breeding management, please contact carvets@msu.edu for advice.

c. CAR consultation meetings and trainings -
• All in-person training classes and facility orientations are canceled until further notice to adhere to social distancing measures.

• Research consultations and scheduled CAR User/Facility group meetings will continue through virtual means (Zoom, Teams, etc) to ensure we continue to provide information to our research community in real-time.

Developments are happening quickly, and it is essential for you and your laboratory to be prepared. We recommend that you visit the SVPRI and MSU websites frequently to obtain current information. There is also an MSU site for Latest Updates and FAQs.

Please continue to reach out to our CAR team with questions and concerns; we are partnered together in the research mission and are striving to safeguard and sustain your animal activities through the challenges ahead.