

Dear Faculty,

You undoubtedly saw the latest information from the University last night. Included in the Archnews announcement was a request to faculty and other investigators to begin winding down non-essential research activities that cannot be performed remotely. The end of the day on Friday, March 20, was set as the target deadline for the cessation of non-essential on-site research activities, understanding that it may not be possible to end all ongoing experiments by that time. The University wishes to make the best use of grant resources ultimately made available to our researchers by the taxpayers, while being mindful of safety guidance from the CDC and other authoritative sources, as well as directives from the USG and UGA.

Of course, the difficulty is in distinguishing essential from non-essential, and we intend to be reasonable and flexible while implementing the proposed deadline. The clearest examples of essential work are cases in which cessation of research would result in the loss of months if not years of work and investment, the maintenance of critical resources (e.g. valuable cells lines and equipment), and COVID-19-related research. Also exempted is any work that occurs remotely from UGA or its satellite campuses and is mindful of the practice of social distancing. Undoubtedly there are other examples. Please reach out with questions to your department head, associate dean/dean, or me. We appreciate how painful it is for our researchers to cease their scholarly activities. Clearly this is an unprecedented time.

Here is some additional information that may be useful to you and your colleagues:

- **COVID-19 Research FAQ.** The [FAQ on the Office of Research homepage](#) has been updated since last night to reflect the latest USG and UGA directives. We will do our best to update this site quickly in the face of rapidly changing information. Please consult this site often for more details.
- **Funding Agencies.** Funding agencies are fully cognizant of the challenges faced by researchers during this time, and most if not all are signaling an intent to be flexible and adaptive. Please direct questions or concerns to your unit grants administrator or [SPA](#).
- **Funding Personnel from Grants.** Charges for research personnel time on grants should continue unchanged at this time. PIs are encouraged to consider ways to keep research personnel engaged and working on projects in a remote fashion. Additional updates will be provided as we assess our institutional and sponsor policies in response to COVID-19.
- **Deliveries.** Central Research Stores will continue to receive and deliver orders to the UGA community to ensure continuity of operations. Deliveries will be reduced to once per day in the afternoon. We understand that customers may require special orders and delivery times. If your department requires a special order, please contact Central Research Stores at 706-542-2411 or crs@uga.edu for service options. Satellite stockrooms will remain open but with limited staffing and operating hours. Please call or email the stores prior to visiting. We will continue to provide dry ice (Monday and Thursday deliveries) and liquid nitrogen (180L or less) as long as vendors continue to provide service.
- **Core Facilities.** Core facility directors have been asked to be reasonable and flexible as you need their services to wind down non-essential research and continue essential research, while being

mindful of safety concerns and university directives. Please reach out to any core facility directors as soon as possible to make arrangements.

- **Goes Without Saying.** Perhaps if there's a bright spot in all of this, it may be the time to do deskwork that you or your colleagues have been meaning to do: write or finish manuscripts, analyze data, develop work plans, catch up on overdue personnel evaluations, etc.

Please know that we will send additional information and updates as they become available.

Best wishes,

David

--

David Lee
Vice President for Research
University of Georgia