

Current definitions of research at UK under COVID-19

- President Capilouto expressed our guiding principles to use social distancing to combat the virus spread. He referred to continuing “essential research”.
- **My message to campus:** We understand that our research mission is not one that is easily amenable to pronounced changes in our mode of operations, but we also understand that we need to work together — using our collective knowledge and creativity — to adjust our approach to research during these difficult and rapidly evolving times. While the President’s message communicated the need to move operations from on campus to remote as much as possible, research at UK is not suspended and our research support offices will continue to provide base services. However, please operate in a manner that reduces activities that require researchers to be on campus and that minimizes the possibility that researchers or study subjects experience exposure to the virus. We encourage you to move as much of your research as possible, and quickly, to remote operations. Toward this goal, be on the watch for communications from College leadership delineating plans for research operations within your domain, and don’t hesitate to contact your Associate Dean for Research if you have questions once unit plans are disseminated. Consistent with unit-level guidance, we encourage you to develop individualized plans for research program operations.
- **Info from our FAQ:** No, research has not been suspended and/or shut down. However, our mode of operations has changed during this time, as social distancing and the above-described guiding principles are our primary objective. You should work with your research personnel to do as many things as possible, suggested below, to continue research, including development of new research proposals, taking the time to increase scholarly activity, improving the training of your employees and inclusion of best practices for your research operations. Identify research operations that must continue (e.g., special care for animals, cell culture maintenance or on-going experiments), and identify who will be responsible for performing those activities (teams identified with back-up plans). This is especially important for ongoing animal experiments to assure investigators are responsible for animal care that is outside of DLAR personnel responsibilities.

Further Definition of Essential On Campus* Research Activities

- These definitions were put into place when we were working on a 2 week suspension of activities following spring break.
- As the situation continues to evolve, and research continues to be curtailed, we need to provide further definition of essential research that takes place on UK's campus.
- This clarifies and provides more context to essential campus research and how to protect personnel.
- This will be important as we modify HR policies for payment of personnel from grants and contracts.
- This will serve as the starting point that we will work from when we move towards resuming on campus research activities.

* , all UK owned, leased, or managed facilities, properties and research sites

Definition of Essential On Campus Research

- Essential on campus research includes:
 - COVID-19 related research
 - Activity that if discontinued would result in irreplaceable data or sample loss;
 - Activity that if discontinued would pose a safety hazard;
 - Activity that maintains critical equipment or core facilities;
 - Activity that maintains critical samples, reagents, and materials;
 - Activity that maintains non-commercial animal populations;
 - Activity that maintains critically needed plant populations, tissue cultures, or other living organisms which cannot be cryopreserved;
 - Activity in support of treatment interventional human subjects research with therapeutic benefit or where stopping procedures would cause harm.

Policies and Procedures

- Underlying assumption: All research is considered non-essential unless there is an approved waiver.
- COVID-19 research: waiver approval process requires completion of a standardized form which includes:
 - List of all participants, position title, contact information, lab location
 - Primary outcome of research as relates to COVID-19
 - Project period
 - Plan for maintaining social distancing, use of PPE and cleaning of equipment/areas
 - Workflow: Department Chair, ADR, OVPR.
- Essential on campus research: waiver approval process requires completion of a standardized form which includes:
 - List of all participants, position title, contact information, lab location. Designation of essential research activity and responsible personnel.
 - For trainees (research assistants, graduate assistants, postdoctoral fellows) that are involved in essential or COVID-19 related research activities, Chair/Director/ADR is responsible for contacting trainee to determine willingness to participate.
 - Project period
 - Plan for maintaining social distancing, use of PPE and cleaning of equipment/areas
 - Workflow: Department Chair, ADR, OVPR.