
Update: Research continuity & transitioning to remote operation

Randy H. Katz Vice Chancellor for Research (campus-wide)

Date: Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 9:08 PM

Subject: Update: Research continuity & transitioning to remote operation

To: <calmessages_communication@lists.berkeley.edu>



Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

This message is being sent to the UC Berkeley research community (faculty, postdocs, graduate students). Please share with relevant researchers, research support staff and PIs.

Dear UC Berkeley Principal Investigators:

Thank you for your swift response to my [message from yesterday](#) directing you to **transition your research labs to majority-remote operation and suspend on-campus research to the greatest extent possible**. If you have not already done so, please make sure to ramp-down your lab operations. For the long term good of our community, **we must work collectively to flatten the curve of this epidemic**.

A reminder that all PIs seeking to continue on-campus research must submit a [Critical On-Campus Research Continuity Request Form](#). We urge you to **file your request by tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 5pm**. Our team is actively reviewing requests as they come in, and will respond to all requests received by tomorrow, by no later than the end of the week.

Current requests fall into three categories:

1. Minimum routine care and oversight required to maintain research capability (maintaining cell lines, animal health, instrumentation, etc), with minimum staffing needed. This information will be shared with our building managers, animal care staff, etc. *Please sustain this oversight in the interim.
2. Critical research, where a delay would have significant financial impacts or catastrophically disrupt the project or protocol
3. Requests to undertake time-sensitive research on COVID-19.

We are actively reviewing proposals as they come in; all proposals will be reviewed expeditiously by cognizant disciplinary leaders, with the goal to provide a **decision no later than the end of this week**.

We understand that it is not possible to suspend research in a minute or by the flick of a switch. Nevertheless, to adhere to yesterday's directives to shelter-at-home, the campus must rapidly shift our research activity to work from home while reducing it on campus, at satellite locations, and in the field.

We also understand that this pause in activity has serious implications for researchers' careers - particularly student and early-career researchers. The campus and our sponsoring state and federal agencies are aware and sympathetic to the unprecedented nature of the current situation, and are responding with a wide range of proposals and decisions.

As a community, we are responding to tremendous and unprecedented challenges. We value your partnership - by working together, we will get through these continuously evolving times.

Please send any questions to vcr@berkeley.edu.

Stay safe,

Randy Howard Katz
Vice Chancellor for Research

If you are a manager who supervises UC Berkeley employees without email access, please circulate this information to all.

Please do not reply to this message

The logo for the University of California, Berkeley, featuring the word "Berkeley" in a large, white, serif font, with "UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font underneath, all set against a dark blue background.

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