

JHU Animal Research Coronavirus Phased Contingency Plan
REVISED: March 18th, 2020

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS:

For All JHU Animal Researchers, Regardless of School or Affiliation:

1. Regularly check and comply with guidance published at Research Animal Resources (RAR) alerts web page.
2. As requested, provide up-to-date information on emergency contacts, critical lab personnel, and ongoing/critical experiments and animals.
3. Contact Research Animal Resources immediately in the case that lab staff are unable to maintain normal animal care, monitoring, or required experimental treatments/procedures

For RAR/Cancer Research Building Staff:

1. Provide up to date contact information to your supervisor or at Research Animal Resources (RAR) alerts web page.
2. Indicate the best method to reach you (i.e. text vs email vs phone call, etc.), and whether you are reliably able to access the internet after hours.
3. Save the RAR Contingency Updates webpage as a favorite on your phone and computer.
4. Plan to attend PAPR training sessions

BACKGROUND:

Guiding Principles:

NOTE: It is very likely that some aspects of this plan will change in response to unexpected conditions.

Throughout the planning and execution of this plan and all other activities, Research Animal Resources have 3 primary obligations. In order of priority, these are:

1. Ensuring the safety and well-being of employees, researchers, and other people.
2. Ensuring the health and welfare of research animals.
3. Ensuring the continuity, integrity, and success of Johns Hopkins animal research.

With these principles in mind, Research Animal Resources has developed a phased contingency plan for coronavirus spread. These phases are specific to the animal research mission and do not reflect the approach of other divisions or groups within JHU, nor the overall approach by JHU and JH Hospital.

PHASED DEPLOYMENT OF CONTINGENCY PLAN:

	Example Triggering Criteria ***may be modified***	Changes to Research ***may be modified***
Phase 0	• Potential, but no immediate threat of spread to JHU researchers and employees	• Regularly check and follow guidelines published at Research Animal Resources (RAR) alerts web page
Phase 1	• JHU restrictions implemented for trainees • JHU affiliate cases develop • MD community spread	• Limit ordering new animals • Delay animal experiments unless critical • Reduce large animal surgery scheduling
Phase 2	• Baltimore community spread • JHU community spread • High absenteeism • Baltimore City Schools closed	• Animal orders, imports, exports stopped • Label critical animals/cages or those requiring treatment • Reduce cage census as much as possible • No new BSL-2 or BSL-3 experiments • Inform RAR if lab cannot provide animal care/ongoing treatments • Large animal surgeries cancelled
Phase 3	Massive regional disruption / JHU closure	• No new animal experiments • Critical lab personnel must “check in” regularly with RAR
***This plan is subject to change as situation evolves		V 1.0 3/12/2020

PHASE ONE:

Example criteria for deployment: Evidence of community spread within Maryland, confirmed cases among JHU employees, other significant impacts to JHU community (e.g. cancellation of classes or meetings, social separation measures)

Changes to research operations:

Rodent users:

1. Limit ordering of new animals and begin planning to reduce cage census
2. Delay non-time-sensitive animal experiments

Large animal users:

1. Limit ordering of new animals
2. Users of Large Animal Operating Rooms should slow ongoing surgical procedures
3. Delay experiments requiring significant post-procedural care

Changes to animal care operations:

1. RAR supervisor group will convene every afternoon for updates on situation, JHU posture, and staffing/operations concerns.
2. COVID-19 Command Group will convene every night for updates on situation, JHU posture, and staffing/operations concerns.

PHASE TWO:

Example criteria for deployment: Evidence of community spread within Baltimore or among JHU employees, significant absenteeism, significant disruption to local infrastructure (e.g. city or county school closures).

Changes to research operations:

Rodent users:

1. Labs should mark cages according to priority (as described at Research Animal Resources (RAR) contingency web page), euthanize extraneous animals, and make provisions for necessary ongoing experimental treatments/procedures.
2. Animal orders and imports/exports will be halted except in extenuating circumstances.
3. Labs should not begin new experiments in BSL-2 or BSL-3 areas.
4. Labs must inform RAR immediately if lab staff are unable to continue required ongoing experimental treatments, breeding colony management, satellite housing care, etc.

Large animal users:

1. Large Animal Operating Rooms will be closed for experimental procedures and surgeries, except by prior arrangement with RAR for ongoing experiments.
2. Animal orders and imports/exports will be halted except in extenuating circumstances.

Changes to animal care operations:

1. Care staff, cage wash, supervisors, and all other staff designated as “adjusted schedule required attendance onsite” (exempt or non-exempt) will be split into 2 groups and begin a rotational schedule. Weekend coverage will no longer be a half-day, instead extending to normal weekday business hours
2. Employees noted as “exempt required attendance offsite” will be asked to work from home.
3. Employees noted as “full time required attendance onsite” and all RAR DVMs will be asked to report to work on a rotational schedule, though in many cases with altered duties.
4. DVM trainees will be expected to work normal working hours on weekend days on which they are designated the on-call or backup-on-call trainee.
5. Cage wash day shift will be asked to report to work starting at noon each day. Night shift will be asked to report at 3 PM.
6. Rodent health checks in many rodent facilities will be conducted by veterinarians. Standard treatments for common clinical conditions will be initiated without contacting labs. Except in extreme cases, emergency contacts will be called prior to euthanasia.
7. Some if not all of outside necropsy services will be suspended. Necropsies of JHU animals will continue as usual.

8. COVID-19 Command Group will convene every night to discuss who needs to report where and post this information to a central website that will need to be checked nightly for assignments.

Changes to MCP operations:

1. All scheduled RAR/MCP lectures and coursework will be reduced or suspended
2. Clinical rounds & morning meetings will continue to occur via Zoom

PHASE THREE:

Example criteria for deployment: JHU closure, massive disruption of local infrastructure, government imposed movement restrictions.

Changes to research operations:

1. As above in phase 2
2. Labs must not begin any new animal experiments except those approved by Vice Deans for Research and/or approved COVID-19 related projects.
3. Emergency contacts for labs must be available for and expect frequent contact from RAR regarding disposition of animals.
4. Labs must “check in” at least weekly to ensure continued coverage by critical staff.

Changes to animal care operations:

1. As above in phase 2, with the below additions/changes.
2. All outside necropsy services will be suspended. Necropsies of JHU animals may be limited as effort and staffing allow.
3. RAR Veterinarians will be expected to make final decisions regarding euthanasia of animals based on required and available effort to maintain animal health and well being.

Changes to MCP operations:

1. As above for Phase 2