

Levels of Research Operations

Level 0: Normal

- Normal operations

Level 1: Caution and Preparation for Modified Operations

- Social distancing (i.e., 6 ft perimeter) required.
- Teleworking encouraged when possible. Work with supervisor and HR for approval.
- Consider slowing down and/or temporarily halting data acquisition if possible.
- Consider key laboratory functions or field work that must remain in working order for your research to survive a prolonged shutdown (e.g., cell lines, critical supplies, transgenic lines, equipment needing liquid nitrogen, etc.).
- Work with IT proactively to ensure access to data remotely.
- Human subjects research under IRB oversight that requires human-to-human interaction will cease [<http://www.umt.edu/research/compliance/IRB/default.php>].
- Groups using UM animal research facilities should identify and train members who can assist Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) staff. Equipment training will be directed by LAR staff. Reduce your lab's LAR animal census in keeping with approved AUPs to reduce burden on LAR staff.

Level 2: Modified Operations

- No new experiments.
- Only essential experiments allowed. Essential experiments are those whose absence or cancellation would result in significant financial or data loss.
- All research buildings will be locked and should only be accessed by the PI and lab members designated as COOP*.
- Designated personnel to assist UM LAR staff as necessary. New animal orders and protocols will be suspended.

Level 3: Mandatory Research Shutdown

- ALL experiments stopped.
- Building access only as necessary to secure spaces and supplies.
- Designated personnel to assist UM LAR staff as necessary.

Level 4: Mandatory Shutdown – Only Essential Operations

- No faculty or staff building access, only Essential Personnel* will be granted access. All research buildings to be locked.
- Back-up power and liquid nitrogen supply cannot be guaranteed.
- LAR staff and other designated personnel will provide basic requirements for animal welfare. PIs should anticipate immediate census reductions if minimally-acceptable living conditions cannot be maintained.

*COOP – Continuity of Operations Personnel. Minimal personnel necessary to safely maintain operations. The list of COOP must be approved by the Vice President of Research and Creative Scholarship.

*Essential Personnel – Personnel allowed to access campus during closure. The list of Essential Personnel must be approved by HR.