



OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH

MEMORANDUM

TO: All UNM Main and Branch Campus Faculty
FROM: Gabriel P. López, Vice President for Research
DATE: March 25, 2020
Re: Statement from VPR and Executive Vice-Chancellor on Research Activity during Stay-at-Home Order

With the issue of the Governor's Public Health Order "stay at home" effective March 24, 2020, we would like to provide further guidance related to research activity. Research activity/facilities are classified as essential businesses in the Public Health Order, so the following principles remain in effect:

1. Tier 1/2/3 classification remains in effect for research staff and all personnel (including students).
2. Research in laboratories and other research facilities may continue with the practice of social distancing, and with no more than 5 people in a room. Students should continue to work remotely at this time. There are exemption processes for students engaged in critical functions, see the memo dated March 20, 2020, at <http://www.unm.edu/coronavirus/index.html> for further information on the exemption process. Whenever possible, work should be performed at home.
3. Human subject researchers should follow the guidance they have received from their IRB.
4. Animal research will continue under federal guidelines. The latest webinar and guidance from the Office of Animal Laboratory Welfare (OLAW) can be accessed here: <https://olaw.nih.gov/index.php/news/now-posted-olaw-webinar-pandemic-contingency-planning-and-its-impact-animal-care.html>. The Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals ([Policy](#)) is applicable to implementing a pandemic plan for animal care and use programs.
5. Living organisms not covered under federal guidelines should be properly maintained by faculty and staff.

The situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, and directives from the State and UNM may be issued which supersede this guidance. We recommend that you frequently check the University's current information and guidelines regarding operations and processes during this period at: <http://www.unm.edu/coronavirus/index.html>.

Thank you for your continued efforts in research and your attention to the wellbeing of our students and all of our colleagues at UNM.