Utah State University Laboratory Animal Research Center (LARC)

EPIDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN

Current Response Level (3/23/20)

**BLUE**

Researchers will be notified via e-mail when the response level changes

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<th>RESPONSE LEVEL</th>
<th>TRIGGER</th>
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<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>• Animal research continues without restriction</td>
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| GREEN          | CDC declares epidemic/threat likely to impact Utah | • Cancel all in-person training  
• No new vivarium access requests to be processed  
• Begin conserving PPE and other critical supplies  
• Order extra feed, bedding, and PPE. Target 2-month supply |
| BLUE           | LARC staffing at less than 70% of normal work capacity or as directed by university administration (Office of Research or University President) | • All animal orders must be reviewed and approved by facility director. Some or all animal orders may be delayed if facility or personnel resources are not available to provide appropriate care.  
• No new animal exports. Previously planned exports will be completed if receiving institution permits.  
• Animal transfers between USU facilities or rooms will be reviewed and may be subject to cancellation or modification.  
• Researchers should consider cessation of non-critical animal breeding.  
• Researchers should consider postponing new animal projects with an expected in-life span of greater than 14 days. |
| YELLOW         | As directed by university administration (Office of Research or University President) | • Postpone any non-essential procedures requiring veterinary or technical support from LARC staff, including large animal surgeries.  
• Decreased frequency of cage change or cleaning.  
• Researchers stop breeding any commercially available stocks or strains. |
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| ORANGE         | LARC staffing at less than 50% of normal work capacity | • Researchers flag 20% of rat and mouse cages as "Priority Save" cages. LARC will provide "Priority Save" cage cards upon request.  
• Census may not be taken. All billing discrepancies will be handled after epidemic/pandemic situation is considered no longer a threat by CDC.  
• No new IACUC protocols will be reviewed or processed. Protocols can continue to be submitted via Kuali but will not receive review until reversion to level yellow or lower. Protocol renewals will be processed to assist in maintaining regulatory compliance.  
• No new rodent surgical procedures may be performed. |
| RED            | LARC staffing at less than 25% of normal work capacity or unable to procure additional feed supplies | • Access to animal facilities restricted to LARC personnel only.  
• Animals at campus satellite facilities must be euthanized or arrangements made to house animals in LARC facilities.  
• Mandatory cessation of all on-site breeding.  
• Targeted euthanasia of non-critical rats and mice. *  
• Euthanasia of all animals in BSL-3 or Select Agent labs at discretion of attending veterinarian to avoid unnecessary animal distress. * |
| BLACK          | LARC staffing at 10% or no feed supplies remaining | • Euthanasia of all animals at discretion of attending veterinarian to avoid unnecessary animal distress. * |

Research focused on COVID-19 or other applicable epidemic infectious agents may be provided exceptions to these plans as LARC staffing and support resources permit.

*Every reasonable effort will be made to contact researchers prior to euthanizing animals. If researchers cannot be contacted, euthanasia may be necessary to prevent unnecessary animal distress.*