

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Campus Research Community

**From:** Malcolm M. Campbell, Vice-President (Research)

**Date:** March 4, 2020

**Re:** COVID-19: Enhanced biosecurity protocol for animal facilities managed by the Office of Research, University of Guelph

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I am writing to share some important, temporary changes to the biosecurity protocol for animal facilities managed by the Office of Research in light of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

As I'm sure you are well aware, health organizations around the world are responding to an outbreak of COVID-19. At the time of this memo, cases have been reported in 72 countries around the world. A list of countries with confirmed cases is available online via the [World Health Organization's COVID-19 situation reports](#).

The Office of Research struck an ad hoc biosecurity committee comprising University of Guelph infectious disease experts and senior administrators to assess the risk posed by COVID-19 to staff and the animals in our care. The committee has met and concluded the present risk necessitates modifications to our current biosecurity protocol to protect staff and ensure continuity of animal welfare and care.

The following biosecurity updates apply to all animal facilities managed by the Office of Research (a complete list of which can be found at the end of this memorandum) and are in addition to the existing biosecurity protocol for animal facilities. As the COVID-19 outbreak evolves, this guidance may change.

- 1. Students, researchers and essential visitors<sup>1</sup> who have travelled to a country with a Level 1, 2 or 3 Travel Restriction as identified by the CDC for COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>) should be in Canada for at least 14 days and free from symptoms of illness prior to entering an animal facility.**

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<sup>1</sup> Essential visitor is defined as any person with necessary and time-sensitive business at an animal research facility, such as contractors, technicians, and government officials.

The Office of Research is committed to ensuring research projects are not compromised by the temporary enhanced biosecurity protocol. Please contact Beverley Hale, Associate Vice-President Research (Agri-Food Partnership) if you have concerns.

**2. No new tours of animal facilities will be scheduled until further notice.**

Already scheduled tours will proceed as planned, absent any attendee who has travelled within the past 14 days to a country with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

The biosecurity committee will continue to monitor the situation over the coming weeks. Please continue to check [uoguelph.ca/alliance/biosecurity](http://uoguelph.ca/alliance/biosecurity) for updates.

We all share a commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of our researchers who work with animals and the animals under their care. I thank you in advance for doing your part to safeguard human and non-human animal health and welfare, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of vital research facilities.

All the best,



Malcolm M. Campbell  
Vice-President (Research)

The enhanced biosecurity protocol applies to the following facilities (in alphabetical order):

- Alma Aquaculture Research Station
- Arkell Research Station (swine, poultry and equine facilities)
- Central Animal Facility
- New Liskeard Beef Research Facility
- Ontario Beef Research Centre (Elora Research Station)
- Ontario Dairy Research Centre (Elora Research Station)
- Ponsonby General Animal Facility
- Ponsonby Sheep Facility
- Research Isolation Unit