



DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Office of Research and Extended Studies

Guidance Regarding Transitioning to Severe Research Restrictions March 23, 2020

In light of the increasing health and safety risk to our campus community and to our region from COVID-19, and resulting directives from federal and state government officials severely limiting interpersonal interactions in any public spaces, UMES' on-campus laboratories and core facilities must begin transitioning immediately to implement Severe Research Restrictions. These restrictions must be enacted as soon as possible and are expected to remain until further notice.

Requests for limited exemptions from these restrictions should be made in writing and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exemptions will require written approval by the College/School Dean, the Office of Research and the Provost.

Severe Research Restrictions: With Severe Restrictions, all basic and animal research experimentation requiring a physical presence at UMES should cease as we move to maintenance operations: maintaining and caring for important instruments, animal colonies, cell lines, and other valuable resources. Other limited exemptions for research requiring campus facilities will be approved at the Dean's level and submitted for final approval to the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Please note that no one may be forced to come to campus to work during the period from now until further notice while we do an orderly transition to these new restrictions. For those working in campus facilities, please remember at all times to continue to use proper precautions – wash hands, wear gloves, maintain 6-ft distance between persons, and wipe down lab benches or other surfaces.

It is important to understand that we are taking this step in the interest of the health and safety of our community. UMES will continue to conduct research, however, it is necessary to limit on-campus laboratory and other campus-based research activity until further notice. All research work that can be done remotely (remote interviews, data processing, proposals, publications, patents, reviews, research group meetings, administrative meetings, etc.) is strongly encouraged.

As stated in the memo to the UMES Community on March 21, 2020, Federal granting agencies are beginning show flexibility due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to maintain constant communication with your granting agency and contact them as soon as possible if you have any questions or concerns about your project. Faculty should keep their collaborators (academic, private, non-profit, and community organizations) informed of any study-specific plans and actions.



Graduate research assistants and their faculty advisors should take steps to place research activities in a state where they can be restarted without loss of progress when restrictions are lifted. We are sensitive to the fact that many faculty and students may lose research time and resources, but we ask for your continued understanding as we all embark on a rapid situation for which we are quickly learning to adapt.

We are not alone in this imperative. Most of our peers across the region and the country are being forced to take similar measures. It is important that we at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore do our best to “flatten the curve” of this pandemic.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us:

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