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Pepperdine guidance on research activities during COVID-19

1 message

Office of the Provost <provost@pepperdine.edu>
Cc: Katy Carr <katy.carr@pepperdine.edu>

Fri, Mar 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Dear Colleagues,

In an effort to protect the health and safety of the Pepperdine University community amid the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation, researchers across all campuses should ramp down all non-essential, on-campus research activities by **5 p.m. on Monday, March 23**. We will continue to assess the situation at regular intervals.

The University will maintain minimal access to laboratories for critical support staff so that activities, including the maintenance of animals, unique reagents, and essential equipment and materials can continue. Research and scholarship (e.g., analyzing data, writing and reviewing manuscripts, preparing presentations, developing new grant proposals, convening online discussions with students and lab staff, etc.) that can occur remotely can, of course, continue. Any requests for continuation of an on-campus research project must be approved by the appropriate school dean and the Vice Provost.

The University has placed temporary restrictions on human subjects research. Effective immediately, **all in-person research interactions** with human subjects **must be suspended** if that research is approved under the auspices of the [Pepperdine Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#). This suspension **does not apply** to research activities that are carried out online, over the phone, or through other means that do not require in-person interaction with participants. Investigators whose research employs in-person interaction and who are able to redesign their study to eliminate in-person interactions are encouraged to do so. If such study designs have not yet been approved by the IRB, investigators should submit an amendment for IRB approval as soon as possible. Such amendments will be reviewed as quickly as possible.

On Thursday, March 19, [Los Angeles County \(PDF\)](#), the [City of Los Angeles \(PDF\)](#), as well as the Governor, ordered all residents to stay home through April 19, 2020. These actions are similar to those of other large metropolitan areas attempting to limit the spread of COVID-19. This means we have suspended all on-campus research activities. In compliance with these new orders, no students should access any Pepperdine campus for research activities - it is not considered essential work.

At this time, our research support units ([Research and Sponsored Programs](#), [IRB](#), and [Animal Care](#)) remain operational remotely. If you have additional questions, please contact Katy Carr at katy.carr@pepperdine.edu.

Sincerely,

Rick R. Marrs
Provost