

October 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Students, and Staff

From: Thomas O. Obisesan, MD, MPH
Associate Vice President and Designated Institutional Official
Office of Regulatory Research Compliance

Reference: *Suspension of ORRC Pause on Research and Defer to the Howard University Campus Reopening Plan (Human Subject Research Protection Program, Animal Care and Use Program, and The Institutional Biosafety (IBC) Research Program During COVID-19 Pandemic)*

On March 22, 2020, the ORRC requested that you pause all research activities within the Academic Center. While the COVID-19 pandemic is a continuing public health concern, considerable progress has occurred in stemming the rates of new infections and associated mortality.

Congruent with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, the Mayor of the District of Columbia (DC), the DC Department of Health, and the Howard University plan for campus reopening, **the ORRC is withdrawing its March 22, 2020 suspension of research activity. Instead, the ORRC now defers to the HU campus reopening plan.** The details of the University Reopening Plan are available on the University website: <https://home.howard.edu/reopen>.

Nonetheless, our utmost priority is protecting Human Subjects, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Animals used in research. Therefore, all research groups (faculty, staff, and students) must complete the appropriate staff Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) training, the CITI COVID-19 back to campus training, and obtain proper authorization to access relevant buildings and laboratories. Importantly, we ask that investigators implement appropriate precautionary measures, especially if contemplating interaction with human subjects: routine/frequent COVID-19 testing for research staff (and volunteers as applicable), symptoms/temperature check (staff and volunteers), social distancing, maintenance of building occupancy requirement (including staggered incoming and outgoing), face mask (preferably N95), eye goggles, gowns, gloves pulled over the wrist bands of the gowns, transparent barriers as appropriate, hand sanitizers, and surface cleaning. Per the University reopening plan, each research group must harmonize its strategy into a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).



Supplemental Information

National Institute of Health

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients](#)
- [NIH Message to Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funds on Flexibilities Needed for COVID-19](#)
- [NOT-OD-20-087 Guidance for NIH-funded Clinical Trials and Human Subjects Studies Affected by COVID-19](#)
- [NOT-OD-20-086 Flexibilities Available to Applicants and Recipients of Federal Financial Assistance Affected by COVID-19](#)
- [FAQs on COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients](#)
- [NOT-OD-20-082 NIH LATE APPLICATION POLICY Due to Public Health Emergency for United States for 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [NOT-OD-20-083 General Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) - Proposal Submission and Award Management Related to COVID-19](#)
- [NIH Guidance on Travel and Meetings Hosted by NIH](#)
- [NIH Extramural Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies](#)
- [Special OLAW Webinar on March 19: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care](#)
- [NOT-OD-20-088 Flexibilities for Assured Institutions for Activities of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees \(IACUCs\) Due to COVID-19](#)

National Science Foundation

- [Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Impact on Existing Deadline Dates](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) About the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) for National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Proposers and Awardees](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Provisioning Advanced Cyberinfrastructure to Further Research on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [NSF Guidance for Major Facilities and Contracts Regarding COVID-19](#)

Office of Justice Programs, DOJ (Guidance sent to Grantees, Subject to Change)

- [OJP Grantee Update #1 COVID-19 Impacts](#)

National Security Agency (Guidance sent to Contractors, Subject to Change)

- [Notice to Contractors Regarding COVID-19 \(Novel Coronavirus\) Update - Re-Release with Downgraded Classification](#)

Department of Energy

- [Accommodating Interruptions from Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- [Assistant Administrator for Procurement Message on Coronavirus](#)

USDA - National Institute of Food and Agriculture

- [NIFA Deadline Extensions due to COVID-19](#)

United States Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity

- [USAMRAA's COVID-19 FAQs](#)

Food and Drug Administration

- [FDA Guidance on Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [FDA Guidance on Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Guidance for Industry, Investigators, and Institutional Review Boards](#)
- [Use of Electronic Informed Consent: Questions and Answers - Guidance for Institutional Review Boards, Investigators, and Sponsors](#)

Department of Health and Human Services

- [Preparation for Potential COVID-19 Impact on Contract and Contractor Performance](#)

Department of Air Force (Sent to Contractors, Subject to Change)

- [Potential Contract Impacts due to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(3/17/20\)](#)

Communication with the ORRC

Please continue to use the relevant emails for your submissions:

Telephone: 202-86508597

Medical IRB - IRB-Medical.ORRC@howard.edu

Non-Medical IRB - IRB-NonMedical.ORRC@howard.edu IACUC –

IACUC - Iacuc.orrcc@howard.edu

IBC - IBC.ORRC@howard.edu

Excluded Research - Exclusions.ORRC@howard.edu

MTA - MTA.ORRC@howard.edu

****General Communication - theorrc@howard.edu**

CC: Anthony Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph. Provost & Chief Academic Officer
Bruce Jones, Ph.D., Vice President for Research
Deans of Colleges and Schools