

## **Preparing for a campus suspension during a public health event: A Guide for UH Biological Laboratories**

In the event of a campus suspension during a public health situation, most research activities that depend upon campus facilities will also be temporarily suspended. The notification of suspension will come from the UH Manoa campus and/or University system administration.

During the suspension period, access to the campus will be severely restricted for safety reasons and due to the absence of fully operational support systems. Most research activities that depend upon campus facilities will be temporarily suspended until further notice.

Exceptions will be made for research activities that will experience unique difficulty in executing closure. Examples include laboratories or vivaria where live vertebrate research animals are housed and the likely possibility of failure to tend to them for an extended period of time would cause significant loss of animal life. Refer to the Animal Veterinary Services<sup>1</sup> (AVS) policy and procedure (Pages 15-16, Section 8.0) for detailed guidance.

Another example in which there would be difficulty in executing laboratory closure includes greenhouse laboratories and outdoor facilities where the maintenance and security of transgenic plants are critical.

Faculty are required to consider experimental protocols, identify essential research and make plans for possible interruptions in research schedules. A justification for investigator laboratory use and a short list of essential staff should be generated. Essential staff members should be properly attired during the campus suspension upon entry onto the university and are required to ensure social distancing to minimize exposure to others.

Faculty conducting research or supervising student research are responsible for ensuring safe and appropriate discontinuation of research activities other than those activities deemed essential. Limiting on-campus research laboratory staff to those needed to perform essential functions are referenced here:

- a. Biological materials: Special arrangements should be made to protect and prevent release of any and all biological material, including biological wastes. Protect biological materials in situations where power, water, and climate control are out of service during the suspension period.
- b. Experiments: Complete all running experiments and instructional use of laboratory space. Do not initiate any new experiments that would require attention during a suspension period.
- c. Live cultures: Secure and seal all live cultures. It is recommended that faculty follow triple packaging guidelines under IATA/DOT.

- d. Autoclave cultures that are nonessential. All standing biological wastes/sharps should be decontaminated. Secure wastes.
- e. Decontaminate the work area with an appropriate fresh disinfectant.
- f. Check for adequate CO<sub>2</sub> or LN<sub>2</sub> backup systems for freezers if so equipped.