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Cc: [Crandall, Nicole](#); [Pennie Rutan](#); [Hopper, Antoinette](#); [Jablonski, Holly](#)
Subject: IMPORTANT Lab message related to COVID-19
Date: Monday, March 16, 2020 10:24:09 AM

Hi everyone. Nicole and I wanted to provide you with some guidance about working in the lab in this new challenging environment. **Please be aware that University research operations remain open at this point.** As you hopefully already know, Dean Dalton's message from March 13th encouraged supervisors to be creative in designing work schedules or other solutions that allow people to balance their work/life responsibilities to the extent possible.

We would also like you to seriously consider working with your laboratory members to **minimize the amount of time that people are in the laboratories at the same time** as social distancing becomes our new norm. Please consider developing protocols that would potentially have people work in shifts or on alternate days to accomplish the work that must be done. A suggestion is to allow individuals in the lab to arrange personal interactions such that they can maintain a comfortable 6-foot distance from each other. If they have to be in the lab at the same time, perhaps they can separate themselves in some way and keep total laboratory time to a minimum. We trust that you all will know what will work best for your own laboratory. However working in the lab alone is not typically recommended which is challenging given our current social distancing recommendations. **Therefore if students, staff, or faculty are to be working in the lab running critical experiments, please reach out and let someone know this happening, in case there are issues.**

Also, as per the message sent by VP Rebecca Cunningham last night, *please make sure that you as PI of your lab have an actionable research continuity of operations plan by this Friday March 20th*. This is **NOT** to suggest that we would take action on this plan on Friday, but simply that *now* is the time to prioritize having a laboratory continuity plan. In this manner labs will be fully prepared in case we need to move to a reduction in laboratory operations. Please let me us know if we can be of help as we realize this has human resource and graduate student/post doc implications.

If you have a lab safety emergency such as a spill, incident, or injury please do not hesitate to contact Nicole at 989-412-4726 or EHS at 734-647-1143 7am to 4pm Monday through Friday. For after-hours responses contact the UM Police Department at 734-763-1131. If it is an emergency call 911 and say "I am calling from the University of Michigan".

If you have liquid Nitrogen dewars in your lab it would be a good idea to arrange a fill up and avoid accessing those stocks after the fill up, or transfer cell stocks from liquid nitrogen storage to -80 storage for the time being.

One lab activity that could be accomplished during this unique situation that does not require supplies or valuable resources would be the updating of the chemical inventories in the MI Safety Portal. Contact Nicole or EHS if you have questions or need guidance to work on this task.

Please consider postponing elective activities or experiments that are not time-sensitive. We've heard from a small number of students doing human subjects research regarding the

new moratorium related to this work. If these new regulations affect you and you have not contacted me please do so, so that we can develop creative solutions for those of you looking to finish your programs of study soon.

As for upcoming Ph.D. defenses, please consider limiting in person public attendance at these events and instead offer them via Bluejeans.

Thanks in advance for paying attention to this new way of doing research. Please also think about your actions while not at work on the building, paying close attention to importance of social distancing. Please let myself, Nicole, Bruce, Jim, Pat, or Pennie know if there is anything that we have not covered, if there is anything we can help with, or if you have any questions. It is great to work with such a tremendous group of people in the College of Pharmacy. You all truly are the leaders and best!

Vicki and Nicole

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