EICF 2020-01: COVID-19 Core Facilities Operations Update
Date: March 24, 2020
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In an effort to meet the needs of our stakeholders, we provide three different versions of our message. The first is a very brief, < 25 word-summary. The second is a slightly more in-depth 100-word summary. The third is detailed. We hope this approach will help you find the level of information you require.

< 25 WORDS
Core facilities and service centers at Emory University have moved to Phase 2 (Remote Work) of their Emergency Preparedness Plans as of 5pm on 23 March 2020.

~ 100 WORDS
In order to safeguard the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, patients, and the general community, Emory University is implementing a plan wind down all non-essential, non-critical, on-campus research. In support of this plan, the core facilities and service centers at Emory are moving to Phase 2 (Remote Work) of their Emergency Preparedness Plans. Only projects deemed essential/critical will be support on campus. All other projects will be delayed. Core facility personnel will be available remotely and can be contacted for project updates. Cores focused on data analysis and experimental design will be minimally impacted and should be able to provide their usual set of services.

~ 500 WORDS
In order to safeguard the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, patients, and the general community, Emory University is implementing a planned wind down all non-essential, non-critical, on-campus research. In support of this plan, core facilities and service centers are moving to Phase 2 (Remote Work) of their Emergency Preparedness Plans. Only research deemed essential/critical is being supported. Core facilities at different schools/units at Emory may have differing capabilities in light of the research slowdown. A detailed status for different core facilities is provided below:

Emory Integrated Core Facilities: The Biostatistics and Collaboration Core and Emory Integrated Computational Core can provide their full set of services while working remotely. All other Emory Integrated Core Facilities are supporting only essential research and are working remotely. Specific questions about projects and capabilities should be addressed to individual core directors.

Winship Shared Resources: Winship Shared Resources will be operating under a remote work policy, where only essential activities will be performed at Emory. Winship's Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Shared Resource (BBISR), Intervention Development, Dissemination and Implementation shared resource (IDDI), and Winship Research Informatics shared resource (WRI) are able to provide their full set of services. Please contact the appropriate Shared Resource Director via email if you are seeking assistance on a research project. We will make every effort to accommodate your research request.

For Winship Shared Resources located in Winship Building C, there are special considerations that need to be observed since this is a clinical facility. Researchers should only be entering Winship Building C before 7AM or after 7PM. If there is any essential research between 7AM and 7PM, then only 1 researcher per laboratory per day may enter at a time for no more than 2 hours at a time. The lab PI for each lab must designate the individual who is in the lower risk group for COVID to perform these functions, in accordance with CDC guidance. Understand that this policy is in place to protect our patients and staff as we aim to flatten the COVID-19 curve.

Emory + Children's Pediatric Cores: All Pediatric Cores can provide consultation, data analysis and all other work-related communications via email and conference calls. Specific updates include:

The Peds/Winship Flow Core will provide sorting and analysis for essential projects only. All training sessions have been suspended. When staff are not present, users must follow after-hours protocols including starting up and shutting down instruments if they are the last users of the day.

The Pediatric Biomarkers Core will create a system for samples from essential projects to be dropped off in a central location to minimize person-to-person contact. Samples from non-essential research will be stored appropriately for future analysis when Emory resumes normal operations.

The Pediatric Animal Physiology Core will only complete ongoing essential studies without new animal purchases. Unless COVID-19 related, the core will not accept new service requests until further notice.

The Clinical Translational Discovery Core will suspend ELISAs and Phlebotomy services. A system will be created for samples from essential projects to be dropped off in a central location to minimize person-to-person contact.

The Pediatric Biostatistics Core can provide their full set of services while working remotely.

ECAS NMR, X-Ray, Mass Spectometry Cores. Self-service at ECAS cores is suspended except as arranged with the ECAS Sr. Associate Dean for Research. No student access will be granted. Arrangement of essential work can be done through our regular scheduling systems with sample drop off outside the locked facility at a time arranged in advance with the Core director.

Georgia CTSA: Georgia CTSA Clinical Research Centers (GCRCs) and Pediatrics programs are conducting essential visits only. Other Georgia CTSA programs at Emory will operate remotely until further notice.

Please note active outpatient studies at the Emory University Hospital GCRC have moved to 6D, room D627. Contact Debora Clem, GCRC Administrative Director, at 404-712-1993 or dclem@emory.edu.

Visit georgiactsa.org to submit a request or contact Karen A. Lindsley DNP, RN of the Georgia CTSA Coordinating Center at klindsl@emory.edu or 404-727-1098.