

# Research Town Hall – COVID-19 Response

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March 19  
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Welcome! The session will start at 3 p.m.

To type in your questions use the Q&A feature of zoom (see below).

Please do not use the Raise Hand prompt.

Audio is not enabled. We are taking text questions and will address them at the end of the presentation.



# Please Note

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- Primary Resource: **researchcontinuity.uchicago.edu**
  - We will post slides and the questions on this site after today's town hall.
- We will answer questions at the end of the session.
- The situation is rapidly evolving. Expect updates and changes.

# Agenda

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The focus of today's presentation is preparation for a shut down.

- Status of institutional support and resources
- Panel discussion
- Research contingency planning updates
- Q and A

# Importance of Public Health Practices

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- Work remotely
- Wash hands and sanitize surfaces
- Practice social distancing
- De-densify labs
  - Essential people only
  - Asynchronous/alternative staffing schedule
  - Virtual lab meetings
- Maintain safety requirements
- Respect personnel concerns about COVID-19 risk

# Changes since March 17

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- Statewide
  - Illinois reports first COVID-19 death
  - Oak Park orders shelter in place
  - Chicago Mayor Lightfoot press conference at 5:00 p.m. today
- University
  - Member of the campus community tests positive
  - Keycard access for buildings
  - Regenstein Library closed as of March 20
  - Clarity on staff, TA and RA, and postdoc funding
  - Drive-up COVID-19 testing opened for those at risk
  - Medical Center moves to essential personnel

# Website for Research Resources and Updates

- [researchcontinuity.uchicago.edu](https://researchcontinuity.uchicago.edu)

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Research Continuity Planning for COVID-19

Home Resources **Sponsored Research**

**Latest Updates:**

- March 18: Added Sponsored Research page with resources and FAQs
- March 17: Slides from March 17 Town Hall

## Guidance for Research Continuity Planning

March 16, 2020

The rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to continue to take deliberate steps to actively curtail its spread. Protecting the health and safety of our faculty, researchers, students, staff, and research participants is our top priority, and University leaders and deans have been unequivocal on this point. We – along with our peer institutions – are taking unprecedented steps to safeguard our community, which now must include significantly ramping down on-campus research activities. To help reduce the number of people on campus, we are asking **all Principal Investigators** who

## Other Coronavirus Update Websites

- [University of Chicago](#)
- [CDC](#)
- [Biological Sciences Division](#)
- [Office of International Affairs](#)

## Sponsored Research Resources and FAQs

*Last Updated: March 18, 2020*

## COVID-19 Research Related Resources

### NIH

#### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID\_19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients

Summary of guidance to date from NIH

[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural\\_disasters/corona-virus.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/corona-virus.htm)

#### NIH Late Application Policy Due to Public Health Emergency

Provides guidance for late applications

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-082.html>

#### Proposal Submission and Award Management Related to COVID-19

Addresses general questions associated with proposal submission and award management. Some guidance on travel conferences, etc.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-083.html>

# Immediate Directives

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We must **prioritize the health and safety** of research teams.

- Be prepared for a shut down
- Research contingency plans submitted to our unit directors
- Deans and Institute Directors to provide a list of essential on-campus research functions

# Prepare for Possible Lab Closure

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- Identify essential personnel
- Identify essential research functions
  - Shutdown procedures
  - Critical maintenance procedures
  - Clinical research (in some cases)
  - COVID-19 research
- Have contact information for all research personnel
- Do not remove items from your lab without approval from your Dean



# What Happens During a 'Shelter in Place' Order

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- Residents cannot leave home except to:
  - Essential activities (grocery store, care for relatives)
  - Essential government functions
  - Essential business
- Limited access granted to universities
  - Essential research functions
- Access to building is restricted, except for:
  - Previously identified essential personnel
  - Critical maintenance procedures to maintain lab viability
  - COVID-19 research

# Animal Resource Center

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- ARC will support labs in developing contingency plans in the event of:
  - Total shut down (maintaining priority animals)
  - Reduced availability of staffing
- Labs need to prioritize animals, ramp down colonies and non-essential experiments now
- ARC is prepared to modify standard animal care procedures when necessary to maintain critical animal resources

# Research Computing

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- All RCC computer systems (Midway, Midway2, MidwayR, GM4 and DaLI) will continue to be operational
- Faculty and researchers will have access to their data and be able to run jobs
- User support is available during regular office hours via email at [help@rcc.uchicago.edu](mailto:help@rcc.uchicago.edu)
- In-person consultation will move to virtual meetings via Zoom

# Secure Data Enclave

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- SDE resources (MidwayR and Virtual Machines) will be operational and accessible via virtual private network and virtual desktop interface
- URA, BSD-CRI, IT Services and the Research Computing Center (RCC) are available to assist researchers and local IT personnel
- Please contact [securedataenclave@uchicago.edu](mailto:securedataenclave@uchicago.edu) for questions

# Sponsored Awards

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- Salary for individuals working remotely and **contributing to the project**, can be charged to the grant.
  - There are many ways people can contribute: data analysis, manuscript preparation, grant writing, etc.
- The PI/lab should **document and retain information** on staff and related compensation that is charged to each award when contributions are questionable
- URA will work remotely and continue their normal function.

# Panel: Updates for the most common questions

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- **Jason Merchant** - PhD students/Postdocs
- **Jennifer Ponting** - Sponsored awards
- **Michael Kwiatkowski** and **Judd Johnson** - Building and facilities
- **Kevin Boyd** - IT Services
- **Paul DeLuca** - Protocol for COVID-19 positive person in your lab

# Local Representatives

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Contact	School/Division
Juan de Pablo	National Laboratories
Conrad Gilliam	Biological Sciences Division
Eric Slauter	Humanities Division
Maria Rubio	Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering
Aaron Dinner	Physical Sciences Division
Pietro Veronesi	Chicago Booth
Ethan Bueno de Mesquita	Harris School of Public Policy
Sydney Hans	School of Social Service Administration
Kate Cagney	Social Sciences Division

# Contact Information and Resources

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- [coronavirusinfo@uchicago.edu](mailto:coronavirusinfo@uchicago.edu)
- [researchcontinuity.uchicago.edu](https://researchcontinuity.uchicago.edu)
- COVID-19 testing
  - Nursing triage – 773-702-2800
  - Curbside testing is only for HCW and established patients – 773-702-6819