



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
810 SCHREIDER STREET
FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND 21702-5000

FCMR-RPA

19 MAR 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND USE REVIEW
OFFICE (ACURO)

SUBJECT: ACURO Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. ACURO acknowledges that COVID-19 presents unique challenges to our customers. The following guidance helps clarify ACURO expectations and what our customers can expect from ACURO during this time.
2. Projects Involving Coronaviruses: **Coronavirus work is prioritized.** Clearly state COVID-19 in the SUBJECT of your email so we can attend to new projects or modifications related to coronavirus as quickly as possible.
3. Animal Welfare: If animals on a DoD-funded study are negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, report to ACURO as soon as reasonably possible. This includes pre-emptive euthanasia that results due to personnel shortages or disaster plan implementation.
4. Animal Protocols: Animal work must not continue beyond the expiration date set by your IACUC. New projects and amendments that require ACURO approval must still be approved by ACURO prior to implementing changes or starting any new animal work. IACUCs are expected to implement appropriate means to continue to conduct business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Questions on extending the life of your funded project must be directed to the funding agency.
5. General Animal Program Guidance: ACURO acknowledges that some programmatic requirements may be delayed or otherwise negatively impacted by COVID-19 (e.g., facility inspections). ACURO endorses OLAW and USDA published guidance in matters related to COVID-19. If discrepancies are noted, please contact our office to resolve the matter.
6. ACURO Workload: Modifications to protocols, de novo reviews, work related to new projects, etc. that are subject to ACURO approval will continue to be reviewed by ACURO. **Coronavirus work will be prioritized if identified as such in the SUBJECT line of emails to ACURO.** ACURO turn-around times may be delayed during this time as nearly all staff are currently teleworking. **Communication by email is preferred.**

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7. Site Visits: Site visits are currently delayed until ACURO receives guidance from Headquarters permitting travel. ACURO will consider each unique circumstance in approving animal work to begin without a site visit.

8. Questions, communications, official submissions should be submitted to the ACURO inbox usarmy.detrick.medcom-usarmmc.other.acuro@mail.mil.

9. The point of contact for this memorandum is COL Dawn C. Fitzhugh, Director, Animal Care and Use Review Office, USAMRDC, 301-619-2145, DSN 343-2145, or dawn.c.fitzhugh.mil@mail.mil.



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