

Animal Husbandry & Health Planning



Establish key foot patterns to follow between clean and dirty areas of the facility

- Fewer staff with multiple functions
- Don't compromise animal health

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Animal Husbandry & Health Planning



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>

Conduct training on prevention techniques – COVID-19 video examples:

- How to protect against novel coronavirus
- How does COVID-19 spread?

Other examples from CDC on YouTube:

- What you need to know about hand washing
- Prepare your home for an emergency

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Prevention Training Resources



- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/videos.html>
- Stop the Spread of Germs poster
- Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019 poster
- Wash Your Hands posters

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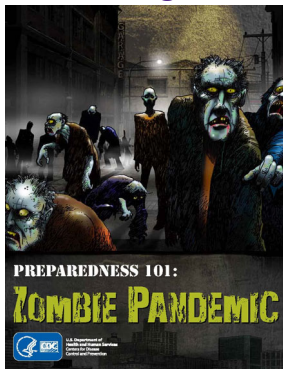
Prevention Training Resources



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Prevention Training Resources



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Prevention Training Resources



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Animal Husbandry & Health Planning



- Transmission from humans to animals in a research setting has NOT been reported!
- BUT, experimental studies are ongoing in ferrets, pigs, macaques and transgenic mice.

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Animal Husbandry & Health Planning



- Animal care staff who develop symptoms should not report to work.
- Follow state and federal requirements for testing, quarantine and isolation

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Animal Husbandry & Health Planning



Develop alternative procedures to allow fewer staff to manage the husbandry

- Extended cage changing schedule
- Extended sanitizing schedule
- If outside the *Guide* – IACUC approval
- Add more bedding to rodent cages
- Less frequent replacement of feed in rodent hoppers

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Animal Husbandry & Health Planning



Develop plans for extended use of protective clothing or alternatives.

- Don't discard masks, gloves, coveralls as frequently
- Use of durable equipment instead of disposable

Consider sanitization and reuse

- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

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Submit to the chat box in the GoToMeeting control panel



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Semiannual Inspections




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Semiannual Inspections

Question 1

Should Assured institutions add language in their Assurance regarding suspension of semiannual inspections in emergencies and performing them when the emergency ends?




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Semiannual Inspections

Question 2

If this is acceptable, does this change need to be approved by OLAW first or can OLAW be notified during the annual report?




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Semiannual Inspections

Question 3

What is the best way to document delayed/cancelled semiannual inspections to ensure that the timeline is noted for possible inspections?



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Semiannual Inspections

Question 4

For minor deficiencies identified on the semiannual inspection and review, how should we determine a date for corrective action plan in place given the pandemic?

Would a statement "*x period of time after operations are resumed*" meet OLAW and USDA expectations?



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Semiannual Inspections

Question 5

May we use one person to give virtual tours to other IACUC members to conduct semiannual inspections?



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Semiannual Inspections

Question 6

"The IACUC may invite ad hoc consultants to assist in conducting the evaluation. However, the IACUC remains responsible for the evaluation and report."

Is using *ad hoc* consultants acceptable for facility inspections and program reviews?

What are best practices when using *ad hoc* consultants?



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Semiannual Inspections

Question 7

At many institutions, the essential personnel available to conduct the inspections may also have supervisory roles over parts of the facility. Is this considered a conflict of interest?



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Semiannual Inspections

Question 8

How can institutions use a recently completed AAALAC site visit as a substitution for institutional-led site inspections during the pandemic?

Could you provide guidance as to timelines under which this would be suitable?



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Animal Study Protocols



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Animal Study Protocols

Question 1

If investigators “pause” animal work due to the pandemic, preventing congruency with the approved protocol timeline, what is required of the investigator/IACUC?

Is it acceptable to issue a blanket statement allowing investigators to alter timelines, rather than requiring each PI to amend their study?




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Animal Study Protocols

Question 2

What is expected of the institution for investigators finishing animal experiments up sooner than expected because of a shut down or other issues?




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Animal Study Protocols

Question 3


When veterinary resources are focused on animal care and well-being during the pandemic, and they are unable to participate in protocol review and consultation, how can research institutions comply with the PHS Policy and the Animal Welfare Act Regulations?



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IACUC Business



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IACUC Business

Question 1

During pandemics, will quorum requirements be relaxed in case the IACUC has to be convened to make decisions at short notice?

What about under the direction of the IO only?



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IACUC Business

Question 2

Please explain what is meant by “access to technology” for IACUC business conducted using telecommunication

Details about using electronic means to conduct IACUC meetings can be found in Section 7.1.8 of the Animal Welfare Inspection Guide.


https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/Animal-Care-Inspection-Guide.pdf



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USDA




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USDA
Question 1

Is the USDA offering any flexibilities in completing semiannual inspections and review due to COVID-19?




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USDA
Question 2

Will VMOs still be doing routine inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic?




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USDA
Question 3

For USDA inspections, we may have limited resources to provide documentation and tours to a USDA inspector.

Have inspectors been given any guidance on how to proceed with site inspections to ensure social distancing or limited resources?




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USDA
Question 4


If facilities do not want 2 people in the facility simultaneously, could one person write a facility inspection report and a second person add to it as they do a separate inspection?



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Other Topics



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Other Topics

Question 1

Can OLAW provide examples of disaster plans regarding COVID-19 pandemic and campus closures?



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Other Topics

Question 2

If our institution mandates that all personnel must work remotely for an extended period of time, whose responsibility is it for designating essential personnel needed to care for our research animals? The IACUC or the IO?



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Other Topics

Question 3

How can we continue to perform post approval monitoring (PAM) activities when access to animals or animal housing areas are minimized or restricted due to COVID-19?



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Other Topics

Question 4

Do we need to update OLAW, NIH, or USDA on our outcome during the recovery stage?



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Other Topics

Question 5

If personnel training expires during this pandemic, what are the consequences?

Can they still work with the animals?



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Other Topics

Question 6

Should any deviations to standard practices related to COVID-19 be captured in the annual report to OLAW or USDA?



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Other Topics

Question 7

What are OLAW and USDA's guidance on using electronic signatures (vs. "wet" signatures) for official documents (e.g., semiannual programmatic report)?



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Other Topics

Question 8

If animals already on study need to be euthanized because the university has shut down, what type of documentation and/or reporting is expected of each IACUC?



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Other Topics

Question 9

If animals already on study were scheduled for post-operative analgesia (or other required treatments) but the university shut down before the administration could occur, is this considered protocol noncompliance?




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Other Topics

Question 10

Do we need to report institutional closures to OLAW or USDA?




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Other Topics

Question 11

Will there be any flexibilities with three year complete reviews?



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**Animal Research and Public Support:
A 2020 Vision for Strategic Communications
and Micro-Messaging**

**Paul McKellips
OLAW Online Seminar
June 11, 2020**

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