

(1) Do I or my research animals have increased risk of contracting COVID-19 in the Animal Resource?

The Animal Resource's long-standing sanitation & cleaning protocols for animal housing and procedural areas kill COVID-19 and maintain a strong biosecurity barrier. We use two virucidal dilutions of Virox "Peroxigard", a hydrogen peroxide veterinary disinfectant concentrate. Since COVID-19 lives no longer than nine days on surfaces, our frequent disinfection practices eliminate any concern for surface contamination. So far, the only evidence of COVID-19 being recovered from another animal species was one case in a pet dog in Hong Kong living in a household where the owner tested positive. Regardless, our PPE and work & sanitation practices prevent potential COVID-19 transmission to our research animals.

(2) Is the vivarium prepared to feed our animals in the face of pandemic-related low staffing and supplies?

The vivarium is in good shape. Our food & bedding distributor has guaranteed weekly deliveries to Western NY even in the face of a State of Emergency. Our distributor employs skilled drivers using a fleet of well maintained 18 wheelers moving supplies from a warehouse full of diet & bedding. Our next routine delivery happens next week. We have a "Pandemic Preparedness Plan" as part of our AAALAC endorsed Animal Resource Disaster Plan. In a worst case scenario, if all animal support supplies stop being delivered in the face of an apocalypse, we have enough animal food & bedding at the UofR to last 6 weeks. We also have a strategy to provide supportive care to all of our animals even if 90% of our staff cannot report to work.

(3) How may I cryopreserve mouse sperm and embryos of irreplaceable mouse lines?

As part of our Disaster Plan, we have recommended researchers use commercial sources such as Jackson (JAX), Charles River Labs (CRL) and Taconic Biosciences to cryopreserve sperm and embryos from valuable mouse lines:

<https://www.jax.org/jax-mice-and-services/cryo-and-strain-donation/cryopreservation>

<https://www.criver.com/sites/default/files/resources/CryopreservationEuropeanServices.pdf>

<https://www.taconic.com/breed-your-model/cryopreservation/mouse-sperm-and-embryo-cryopreservation/>

While these cryopreservation services currently have increased demand and lead time in the face of the Covid-19 threat, UofR PIs may get in the cryopreservation cue. Please let us know after you contact any of these contract labs when you would like us to ship mice out for cryopreservation.

Best wishes - Jeff

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