

From: [Cfaes-all](#) on behalf of [Kress, Cathann A. via Cfaes-all](#)
To: cfaes-all@lists.service.ohio-state.edu
Subject: [cfaes-all] Research Update
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 1:58:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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[ATT00001.txt](#)

CFAES Colleagues:

The number of cases of COVID-19 have and will continue to rise in Ohio, including in our own communities. As such it is critical for us to be thoughtful about what research and other activities should be allowed to continue even on a very limited basis. We do not want to put the health of you, our faculty and staff, nor the health of our students at a greater risk than already exists and undoubtedly will continue to rise during the next few weeks.

As you are aware, the state of Ohio is under a “Stay at Home” order effective through at least April 6. This order may be extended, and it includes exemptions for activities associated with support of agriculture, the food supply chain, and associated natural resource base. Much of the research and Extension work done by CFAES supports the food supply chain and natural resource base. Given that, we have sought exemption for CFAES Research and Extension activities in support of mission critical areas, and we have been granted permission to allow a **very limited** amount of research and extension activities above the current restriction holding us to only critical activities.

Mission critical is defined as work that is either focused on COVID-19 OR essential for the immediate benefit of maintaining the food supply chain, or protection of critical natural resources such as water. Factors such as the investment in an on-going study, or delays in a study, or graduate student progress will unfortunately not be a factor in approving continuing activities. To be sure, our research will be adversely impacted, and we need to accept that. Whether or not you believe that the measures being undertaken by the government and university are warranted is beside the point; **we do not have the option to ignore them.**

The following applies to the Columbus, Wooster, and Statewide campuses. To facilitate the transition, please be aware of the following:

1. All previously granted approvals for critical research activities and travel will be rescinded effective April 6.
2. From now until April 6, only personnel previously approved for critical research activities or travel will be allowed on our properties. This will be strictly enforced as we are still getting reports of people in buildings, greenhouses, etc. who are not supposed to be present. Do not continue on-site work without approval.
3. A new process has been established whereby all activities and travel to take place April 6 or later will need to be approved again, or a new approval request granted. This includes work that will occur within or on OSU facilities as well as that done elsewhere. Further details and the application process can be found at: <https://grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/resources/covid-19-guidance>

Please note that any or all approvals may be rescinded if relevant health and safety precautions are

not utilized, or additional restrictions are put into place by the State of Ohio, The Ohio State University (OSU), or the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

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