

Due to the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Nebraska and the rest of the world, the Division of Research will be taking steps to protect our campus community and the broader community.

Overview of protective actions:

Human Subjects Research: All research activities involving the in-person collection of data from human-subjects is hereby suspended until further notice.

Animal Subjects Research: In the event of a campus shutdown, it is imperative that care for our laboratory animals continues. To maintain as little face-to-face interaction as possible, PIs will be able to check out controlled substances indefinitely to be housed within their animal care facilities under lock and key.

Sponsored Projects: OSP will maintain staffing levels and will work with faculty and staff on submissions electronically.

Research Week: In conjunction with Graduate Studies, all Research Week activities are hereby moved online and administered via Canvas.

Human Subjects Research

In an effort to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and to recognize the importance of keeping our investigators and the human subjects safe, the UNK IRB will require all IRB-approved projects involving face-to-face interaction with subjects be suspended immediately. When the CDC has determined the COVID-19 is no longer a risk, you will be notified by the UNK IRB.

Exemptions to this policy will be granted if the suspension of a project will cause immediate negative implications for the subjects.

Questions and requests for exemptions should be submitted to unkirb@unk.edu.

Animal Subjects Research

The Office of Research Compliance has been informed that Copeland Hall & Bruner Hall animal access areas will remain open in the case of a campus shutdown. We recommend checking your supply of controlled substances and restocking if necessary in preparation of an instance of an animal in distress that would require de-populating.

Jeramie Ellis, is 10 minutes from campus, and if available will come to campus to access the Stockroom if necessary, her cell phone number is 801-419-6331.

Sponsored Programs

The Office of Sponsored Programs will remain staffed in the event of a campus shutdown with staff working remotely, when necessary. All business can be conducted via email and zoom. Federal granting agencies are allowing institutions to apply for extensions due to campus closure that adversely impacts grant submission activity. Should you need to request an extension, please contact OSP as soon as possible.

Research Week

In conjunction with Graduate Studies, the Division of Research has moved all Research Week activities scheduled from 3/31-4/3 have been moved online.

Further guidance for participation will follow tomorrow from myself and Drs. Bice and Ellis. We plan to host all events through Canvas, with meaningful interaction between students and the campus community maintained. Events impact include the launch of *New Frontiers* Reception (3/31), *New Frontiers* faculty forums (4/1), Graduate Student Research Day (4/2), and the Undergraduate Research Day (4/3).