April 3, 2020

To: FIU Laboratory and Field Researchers With Current Laboratory Access and Field Work Permission:

You are receiving this message and survey because individuals from your research group have received permission to access laboratories or conduct field activities under specific social distancing procedures. We are preparing for a more limited access to laboratories and field work.

We are grateful for the collaboration, flexibility and adaptability of our research community under the current circumstances. As a university community, we will continue doing everything in our power to support social distancing and help prevent the spread of the virus. We have instituted a system for allowing essential work on selected laboratories and field efforts. **At this stage, however, we need to plan for a more restricted environment in our laboratories and field activities.** We believe that maintenance of animal lines, equipment, and long-term experiments that may be permanently jeopardized by ceasing laboratory work are essential. The restricted access to laboratories we have instituted addresses issues of safety and continuity of essential research.

The long-term viability of many research programs during this period will require management of essential animal lines, equipment, liquid nitrogen or other cryogen stocks, and long-term experiments. To meet these needs, we request that each laboratory that has already received permission for limited personnel access during this pandemic identify a smaller number of critical key personnel (no more than 1-2) who will be responsible for this essential ongoing maintenance.

For all personnel allowed access to laboratories, it has been mandated that everyone practice good hygiene and maintain the required social distance requirements mandated by the CDC.

**Additionally, field activities, including but not limited to sampling and collections, are currently suspended.**

**Action to be taken now** – Complete the survey available at [https://fiu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNJggCM8T0ElpYp](https://fiu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNJggCM8T0ElpYp).

Please complete the survey by Monday April 6 at noon. In the survey you will be asked to provide the names and contact information of your designated critical key personnel, as well as requests for exceptions to allow COVID-19 studies or the continuation of ongoing critical experiments. When determining the appropriate size of your lab’s critical “skeleton crew,” please consider any equipment that might require gas or cryogen monitoring/service, such as deep-storage freezers, electron microscopes, mass spectrometers, and/or incubators. Keep in mind that any potentially hazardous operation will require at least two trained and qualified persons be present while maintaining social distancing requirements set forth by the CDC. Researchers should visit ORED’s resource page at [http://research.fiu.edu/coronavirus/ for research continuity guidance for laboratories and research facilities](http://research.fiu.edu/coronavirus/).

Please direct questions to the following address: **Luis.Salas@fiu.edu**.