DATE: March 22, 2022

TO: University of Alaska Anchorage Leadership, Faculty, and Researchers

FROM: Aaron Dotson, Interim Vice Provost for Research

RE: Effect of Municipality of Anchorage EO-03 on On-Campus Research

EO-03 may be found at EO-03 can be found on-line at https://www.muni.org/departments/mayor/pressreleases/documents/eo-03.pdf

Mayor Ethan A. Berkowitz issued a Municipality of Anchorage Proclamation of Emergency “Hunker Down” Order EO-03. This order went into place at 10:00 PM on Sunday, March 22, 2020. While the University of Alaska Anchorage operations are classified under a variety of clauses listed as “critical businesses,” it is in our best interest to act in a manner to embody the intent of EO-03.

Through this memorandum, the Office of Research, with the support of the Provost and Chancellor, is REQUIRING that all on-campus research (not subject to an exclusion) to suspend research, vacate campus, and transition to remote work by no later than 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 25, 2020 until EO-03 expires at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

The Office of Research understands that not all research is capable of rapid stopping and re-starting. Faculty or staff leading a research laboratory seeking exclusion must gain approval from the Unit’s Dean or Director and notify the Vice Provost for Research prior to 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 25, 2020. The notification MUST justify the request for exclusion using at least one following:

1) Research involves living animals, plants, or microbes that viability must be maintained for experimental or regulatory reasons.

2) Research related to COVID-19 or similar pathogens that may lead to advances knowledge that may lead to that reduction the negative health outcomes associated with infection, slow the on-going pandemic, etc.
3) Research that is unable to be easily stopped and restarted and is be performed in a laboratory that can ensure CDC recommended social distancing protocols while ensuring laboratory approved health and safety practices.

4) Research involving students required for a course (e.g. 498 or 698 courses) to support distance education (e.g. setting up on or collecting data from a piece of analytical equipment for off-campus processing data).

Further, field research related to on-campus research that is located within the Municipality of Anchorage may continue as long as these activities are in-line with EO-03 the following criteria:

1) Field works is able to be performed in a manner to ensure CDC recommendations for social distancing.

2) Field work takes place in areas that are not closed or restricted by any Municipal closure.

3) Field work resembles activities similar to getting “fresh air without contacting others.”

In closing, I recommend that all faculty, staff, and students currently performing research on-campus or in the field, prepare for the potential that EO-03 to be extended and further restriction of access and movement may be ordered. While this and potential future restrictions will have a direct impact on your research, it is through these restrictions that our community is striving to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission and infection to ensure functionality of our healthcare system.

CC: Cathy Sandeen, Chancellor  
    John Stalvey, Interim Provost  
    Research News Listserv