

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 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 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 work 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