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[Research News] Governor Approval: UA Allowed to Proceed with Research under Specific Restrictions

1 message

Aaron Dotson <addotson@alaska.edu>

Mon, Apr 13, 2020 at 9:12 PM

To: "researchers@lists.uaa.alaska.edu" <researchers@lists.uaa.alaska.edu>

Cc: John Stalvey <jstalvey@alaska.edu>, Cathy Sandeen <csandeen@alaska.edu>, Kimberly Mahoney <kmahone1@alaska.edu>

Faculty and Staff,

On April 11, 2020, UA President Johnsen requested consideration on UA's classification as an "essential business" under the purview of "Educational institutions facilitating distance learning."

The Governor's Office promptly responded:

After a review by the Commissioner Crum, the University of Alaska's request - COVID-19 – Research Exception for Health Mandate 11 has been approved for execution using the restrictions mentioned in your request for clarification as stated below:

We would proceed with research activity under the following restrictions:

- 1. Only those research activities that cannot be accomplished remotely would be conducted in-person;*
- 2. Travel would be compliant with health mandates; and*
- 3. "Social Distancing" as defined in the Essential Services Order would be maintained, including six-foot separation where feasible, elevated hygiene and cleaning, training on handwashing and sneeze and cough control.*

It must be noted that while UA was given this allowance under Health Mandate 11, other mandates by the Governor and the Anchorage Mayor remain in place. These mandates must be followed as you consider how you may be able to perform research or sponsored activities under this allowance. While this additional flexibility will help those that have had to pause their research, it comes with great responsibility in a time of continued vigilance to flatten the curve under shelter-in-place orders.

Faculty and Staff will need to work with their Dean or Director to gain approval to proceed with any in-person research. Further, the Office of Research, Provost, appropriate building managers, EHSRM, and UAA UPD (if on campus) will need to be notified of each approval given, times and locations that people are expected to on-campus and a written statement describing how you have met item #3 from the Governor's response.

If your research or sponsored activity is already being performed on campus, no further action is needed at this time.

If you are requesting approval, please consider using the attached worksheet to help guide your request to ensure that you have provided adequate information to continue your work. Further, it is the expectation that the research or sponsored activity generally embody restrictions of current mandates, meaning that work on campus or in the field (where allowable in the municipality) will be minimized and all associated data processing or paperwork will be performed via telework. Finally, fully approved requests will require that appropriate Dean/Director/Supervisor will update the online UA employee tracking tool accordingly.

Thank you for your hard work in these challenging times and stay safe, healthy, and positive.

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To arrange a meeting or phone call with me, please work with Tami Choquette (tjchoquette@alaska.edu or 907-786-1076)

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Researchers mailing list
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