

## **Laboratory “Hibernation” Planning**

As part of the Pandemic Planning process, faculty and staff are asked to analyze research operations to determine what actions to take in the event of an extended absence from the laboratory or “laboratory hibernation” related to a pandemic or other emergency. Special consideration must be given to those materials, specimens, or research products that would be impacted by a prolonged period of inactivity in the laboratory.

The purpose of this planning document is to provide investigators a guide for laboratory hibernation. Please assume that all utilities will remain operational.

### **Chemical Materials**

All experiments involving hazardous materials must be halted during the laboratory hibernation. All non-essential equipment - water baths, hot plates and other heating equipment - must be turned off and unplugged. All chemical containers must be closed and stored properly. Special attention for the prolonged storage of the following materials must be considered:

- Reactive materials requiring inert atmosphere
- Temperature sensitive materials
- On-going production activity

All chemical waste must be properly labeled and secured.

### **Radiological Materials**

All radioactive materials must be placed in their appropriate storage areas and secured. All radiological waste must be properly labeled and secured. An appropriate survey of the radioactive work areas, storage areas, and equipment used must be performed prior to the laboratory hibernation.

### **Biological Materials**

All biological materials must be placed in their appropriate storage area and secured. Live cultures of pathogenic agents in Petri dishes need to be sealed (with parafilm), legibly labeled, and stored in a locked refrigerator or freezer, as appropriate. All non-essential equipment - water baths, incubators, hot plates and other heating equipment - must be turned off and unplugged. All dry medical waste must be packaged correctly and disposed to appropriate accumulation sites, and other dry biological waste must be packaged appropriately, autoclaved, and disposed to the landfill. Liquid biological wastes must be treated with appropriate disinfectants (e.g., 30 minutes exposure to 10%

final volume household chlorine bleach) and disposed down the sink. Provision must be made to replenish liquid nitrogen in refrigeration systems that use that coolant.

### **Plants**

Provisions for the care of the plants including watering, feeding, temperature and lighting control must be made.

### **Animals**

All animals must be returned to the appropriate vivaria or contact the Office of the Attending Veterinarian.

### **Electrical**

All equipment that is not essential to remain running must be turned off and unplugged.

### **Security**

All materials and equipment must be secured during the laboratory hibernation. Generally, this will require that the laboratory entrances be locked. However, special or additional security considerations must be given to:

- Controlled Substances
- Select Agents
- Radioactive Materials

### **Special Considerations**

Laboratories with any other special measures or procedures in place to protect research materials must take in to consideration whether additional measures need to be taken in the absence of staff.