Clarification on Critical Research

Dean Cathann Kress, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean

CFAES Research Community,

We wanted to provide some additional clarification regarding the announcement yesterday, March 18 by Dr. Morley Stone restricting research activities to critical research. Unfortunately, the situation has worsened quickly. Note the change from “essential” used earlier this week to “critical” in this latest message.

Unfortunately, this means that we need to immediately cease all research activity that cannot be performed via telework or that does not fit one of the three criteria identified below.

Faculty and graduate students are not to keep coming to labs, greenhouses, or other facilities to continue research activity. Nor are you to gather in remote locations. We realize the significant negative impact this will have on the CFAES research community in many ways and will work to provide you with additional relevant details to understand and minimize those effects.

Please note that the university is defining critical research as:
1) COVID-19 research that has the potential to mitigate the spread of the pandemic;
2) Certain medical research that if discontinued would endanger the lives of the participants in the research; or
3) Procedures that require timely and regular attention from a person to maintain critical laboratory infrastructure and experimental conditions. For example, providing animal support, maintaining equipment that requires gas, cryogenic service, monitoring irreplaceable cell lines, and other substantially similar treatments.

If you were granted permission to travel remotely for research purposes, please be aware that we have been asked to review those activities as well.