

March 10, 2020

Re: Biosecurity measures in the Animal Research Facility at CSU

In the light of a growing concern regarding the pandemic outbreak of the 2019-nCov (aka, Coronavirus or COVID-19 virus), this memo is intended to outline some of the essential biosecurity steps implemented in the Animal Research Facility at Cleveland State University.

- General biosecurity measures are practiced in the facility routinely. They include, but are not limited to 1) restricted access to the Facility by authorized personnel only; 2) all animal housing rooms within the Facility are kept locked and, with an exception of the Facility staff or other essential emergency personnel of CSU, are accessible strictly to the individuals who perform research activities for a specific Principal Investigator (PI); 3) clean, sterilized cages for the animals are stored in an only Facility-accessible room; 4) newly arrived rodents undergo a quarantine and health assessment in accordance with the CSU IACUC Policies before being released.
- Floors in each animal housing room are mopped and cage racks are wiped with various disinfecting agents weekly. Personal Protective Equipment is downed by the Facility staff to protect both, the animals and the workers, from transmissible diseases and allergens.
- Soiled rodent cages undergo cleaning in the cagewasher by a mixture of a disinfecting soap and hot water before being assembled and processed. Additionally, every clean cage or a feed container is autoclaved (sterilized) before being exposed to the animals in each individual animal housing room.
- Attending Veterinarian (AV) performs frequent facility assessments, examines the animals, provides recommendation and sends a report to the CSU IACUC after each visit. Additionally, the AV and the Facility Manager maintain the ability to connect over the phone, should a prompt consultation or attention to a concerning situation is required.
- Although, based on the current global knowledge of COVID-19, animals are not a source of the disease dissemination, and there is no current testing of rodents for COVID-19 available, Facility, in collaboration with the AV, maintains a sentinel program which is designed to screen resident rodents for various pathogens and parasites.
- Animal facilities must be maintained at a level to ensure animal welfare. If CSU experiences a reduction in staff, arrangements will be made as necessary to continue providing husbandry services.

Additional and current information regarding the COVID-19 outbreak can be found on the US Center for the Disease and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>.

Further questions or concerns may be directed to Lyubomyr (Lou) Turchyn, Manager, Animal Research Facility, at X2071 or via email at l.turchyn14@csuohio.edu