



March 2020

A message from Joe Kanabrocki, Associate Vice President for Research Safety:

Dear Laboratory Community,

*In light of the COVID-19 situation and the University's directive to ramp down research activities in order to reduce person-to-person contact, the Office of Research Safety will be **temporarily suspending our routine laboratory inspection** process. Therefore, we are cancelling all scheduled inspections and suspending our laboratory inspection program until further notice. We will reach out to you again when the inspection process resumes.*

*At present, building **loading docks remain open** for receipt of materials essential to your research (e.g. compressed gas, liquid nitrogen) and hazardous waste collection continues. For information regarding waste pick up and other services, please visit the Environmental Health and Safety's website here: <https://safety.uchicago.edu/>*

*ORS has converted all **in-person training** activities to on-line live sessions (via Zoom) at: <https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/trainingregistration>*

***Office of Research Safety staff** are primarily working from home but remain responsive to your questions and needs; all ORS phones have been forwarded to ORS staff mobile phones, or you may email us at researchsafety@uchicago.edu. For the **ORS Response and Decontamination Guidance**, visit our website at <https://researchsafety.uchicago.edu/>*

*ORS staff, together with the UChicago [Institutional Biosafety Committee](#), continue to work with **investigators interested in pursuing research in the realm of COVID-19** to ensure the safety of research staff and to help facilitate vital scientific inquiry into COVID-19. To this end, the BSD Dean's Office is establishing a SARS-CoV-2 Core facility at the [Howard T. Ricketts Laboratory \(HTRL\)](#) on the campus of Argonne National Laboratories. This state-of-the-art biocontainment laboratory operates at BSL3/ABSL3 under the Direction of Professor of Microbiology Dominique Missiakas, with the SARS Core directed by Professor of Microbiology Glenn Randall. The HTRL will support research activity involving SARS-CoV-2 infection studies, whether in vivo or in vitro. **Please [contact ORS immediately](#) if you plan to pursue a research project involving SARS-CoV-2.***

The response to the COVID-19 outbreak is fluid and subject to change. We will notify you immediately in the event any of the above-mentioned services are changed or temporarily suspended. In the meantime, please visit the University's Research Continuity Planning website for instructions pertaining to the research community's response to COVID-19. This website will be updated often <https://researchcontinuity.uchicago.edu/>.

Please [send us an email](#) if we can assist you or your lab with anything.

The University will continue to provide information and updates, visit <https://coronavirusupdates.uchicago.edu>

Be well,

Associate Vice President for Research Safety