From: Texas A&M University Research Administration on behalf of Research Communications & Public Relations
To: VPRA@LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU
Subject: [VPRA] Guidance on Essential Research
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020 8:50:23 PM
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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Division of Research

April 2, 2020

Sent on behalf of Mark A. Barteau, Vice President for Research

On March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order GA-14 https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-14_Statewide_Essential_Service_and_Activity_COVID-19_IMAGE_03-31-2020.pdf

This order, which allows only essential services in the state, took effect at 12:01AM on April 2, 2020, and will be in force for the remainder of April 2020. It defines "essential services" as those listed by the US Department of Homeland Security, Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf plus those approved by the Texas Department of Emergency Management https://tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices/. With respect to research activities, the DHS Guidance exempts, as providing essential services "workers who perform critical clinical research, development, and testing needed for COVID-19 response." However, guidelines summarize different critical infrastructure areas and provide latitude to define research-related activities in these as essential.

Texas A&M University, TEES, and AgriLife Research have created forms for you to identify essential personnel and request approval for essential research. These forms and approval routing instructions can be obtained at the following sites:

TAMU (including HSC): https://u.tamu.edu/essential-research-request
TEES: https://it-lf-ecmf2.ads.tamu.edu/Forms/EssentialResearchRequest
AgriLife Research: https://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/essential-research-activities-exemption-request/

Thank you for the efforts that you have undertaken thus far as we transition our research activities and for your commitment to the well-being of our research community.