



COVID-19 Response – Dairy Education and Research Centre (DERC)

In response to this unprecedented challenge we are all facing with the spread of COVID-19, the DERC have taken steps to ensure the safety of students and staff members, as well as the well-being of the dairy herd at the DERC. Myself (Ronaldo Cerri; Director), Nelson Dinn (Manager), Dan Weary and Nina von Keyserlingk (members of the Dairy User's Committee) have been in communication with members of the UBC community and collaborators to update and inform about our actions.

Many decisions have been taken over the past week on a national, provincial and university level. Everyone involved with activities at the DERC should stay informed and check often for updates on the links provided below.

BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

<http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

The University of British Columbia (UBC)

<https://covid19.ubc.ca/>

The Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

The World Health Organization (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/en/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Specifically regarding actions at the DERC, the following steps have been taken:

- Social distancing is required when carrying out duties at the DERC.
 - No more than two people should be in an area at one time.
 - Immediate return of students to their respective residence units after activities at the barn.
 - Kitchen, offices, and conference room closed for any gathering.
 - Temporary ban on entry of new students and staff, as well as visitors
- No new research projects should be started over the next weeks. We will resume normal activities once we receive directions from the VP office of research.
- Current research activities at the UBC herd are being carried out with restrictions to minimize exposure and social contact.
- Outside research (on commercial farms) is no longer permitted for the time being.

All these measures have been previously discussed with our UBC Animal Care veterinarian. There is a common understanding of the unique needs of the DERC and that, until further notice, we should still be able to continue with basic data collection while respecting all directives including social distancing. The situation is moving at a fast pace and we may also need to change directions quickly.



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On March 20th, the UBC Dairy User's Committee have met to summarize our actions as well as to plan for further steps. The DERC regular dairy operations must continue, but our utmost priority is the safety of our staff members, students, and the welfare of our animals.

We do understand that these are uncharted waters, but we are working hard to provide the best possible conditions for everyone. We would like to thank all involved with the DERC for your commitment and support.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us should you need further information.

Warm regards,

The Dairy User's Committee

Ronaldo Cerri – Associate Professor and DERC Director

Nelson Dinn – DERC Manager

Marina von Keyserlingk - Professor

Daniel Weary - Professor