



May 20, 2020

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

The measures taken by the DERC since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic have emphasized social distancing, closure of social gathering spaces and activities, as well as curtailment of research activities. We cannot thank our students and staff enough for the hard work and patience during this difficult time -- you have been true champions during this pandemic and we are grateful for your contributions to the Dairy Centre.

All on-going projects at the DERC have approved research exemptions, and no new projects or personnel have been allowed over the past two months. Recently, the province of British Columbia have declared that it has successfully flatten the COVID-19 curve and is now ready for a gradual re-opening of several social and economic activities, including those related to post-secondary education and research (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>).

The UBC is now requesting all units to prepare and revise the necessary safety plans to conduct this re-opening. The Dairy User's Committee have now taken actions to produce the Dairy Centre Safety Plan, which is being updated to contain all requests and approval from the UBC's Safety and Risk Services office.

More specifically we will be looking at options to implement protocols for:

- Initiation of new projects and proper coordination among researchers;
- Arrival and introduction of new in-province, out-of-province, and international students;
- Social interactions among the residents at the DERC's student housing;
- General procedures that include:
 - Work place traffic flow (e.g. maps, signage, etc);
 - Personal protective equipment and sanitizing;
 - Office and laboratory occupancy;
 - Use of social areas and work vehicles.

We will continue to follow the recommendations from the federal and provincial governments, UBC, and LFS. As most people are already aware, this situation is dynamic and dependent on current epidemiological data from health authorities.



We would like again to thank all involved for your commitment and support. This is a situation we do not take lightly, but we must also bring a more positive twist, a sense of hope and kindness, particularly to take care of each other. The safety and physical and mental health of all involved at the DERC is our utmost priority. We will be there for you.

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

Cheers,

The Dairy User's Committee

Ronaldo Cerri – Associate Professor and DERC Director

Nelson Dinn – DERC Manager

Marina von Keyserlingk - Professor

Daniel Weary - Professor

Again, 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>

The Government of British Columbia – Restart Plan

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>