Dear Colleagues:

By now, you are all aware of the increased restrictions announced by the QC government on Monday, 23 March, which limit activity within the province to essential services. You are also, no doubt, aware that the University will be closed at least until May 1st.

In support of the University’s and the community’s social commitment to limit the spread of COVID-19 and ensure appropriate social distancing, we must amend our policies concerning exemptions granted to permit access to research facilities.

Effective Friday, 27 March, at 11pm, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE CONDUCTING COVID-19-RELATED RESEARCH, access to campus-based research labs and offices will be limited ONLY to those individuals authorized to provide essential services. These services include animal care, verification of freezers, monitoring/filling liquid nitrogen dewars and other essential materials, and emergency maintenance/repair of equipment. No more than two individuals may be present in the lab simultaneously (preferably one) and those individuals must maintain a distance of two meters from one another at all times.

For those who have been granted exemptions for such essential services, your exemption will automatically be extended through the period of the University’s closure. For those who have been granted exemptions to complete critical ongoing experiments, those exemptions will end as of Friday, 27 March, 11 pm. Investigators are reminded that the required ramp down in activity is university policy in accordance with government directives. Occupancy and activity levels in buildings are being monitored by Security. Please ensure that your equipment and labs are secured before leaving the building and that any perishable items that would normally be thrown away are removed from the premises (not left in garbage cans that are not being emptied regularly).

We understand that these restrictions will be challenging for your research programs. However, we must all recognize that we are living through a public health emergency that is unprecedented in our lifetimes. The health and safety of our community must be our number one priority.

Thank you for your cooperation through this difficult time. We will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves and as additional information is communicated by funding agencies and other authorities. In the interim, we wish you and your families good health.

Best regards,

Shari, Sylvain, Aimee & Alba

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