



**Conducting Scientific Research
in a COVID-19 World:**
Meeting the Demand for Animal Models

Regardless of size, location or focus, businesses across the world are feeling the dire impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the life science community specifically, the availability of research animals is a key concern for scientists as they seek to test the safety and effectiveness of therapeutics or vaccines before launching into human trials. WuXi AppTec is dedicated to ensuring the integrity of studies remains whole and has made accommodations to mitigate these types of challenges. Through proactive measures, WuXi AppTec has provided continued testing support, kept compounds in China and continues moving programs forward with a healthy supply of animal models.

It's incredible and gratifying that the biopharmaceutical and scientific communities are rushing to combat COVID-19, with companies announcing new plans to develop their own virus-fighting compounds or potential vaccines every day. However, to test an experimental formulation, scientists can't seamlessly jump from *in vitro* into people—they must first test in animal models. As research ramps up for the development of treatments and vaccines, animals are a crucial component in fighting the pandemic, and WuXi AppTec is committed to ensuring the availability and integrity of the animals we use for our customers' vital research and development programs. But how can we ensure the supply chain and commercial execution for obtaining animals for scientific research is maintained amidst COVID-19? The following sections address these questions, as well as how WuXi AppTec is meeting this crucial need.

Animals for scientific research amidst COVID-19

WuXi AppTec is taking steps to ensure compliance with disease control guidelines pertaining to COVID-19. Pursuant to the robust execution of the company's business continuity plan, the process for ordering animals remains the same even during COVID-19. WuXi AppTec has continued to work closely with vendors, communicating openly and continuously to ensure animals are delivered in a timely manner. All animals are purchased from top-ranking vendors in China.

Once an order is placed, animals typically arrive within a week, and COVID-19 has not affected this timeline. WuXi AppTec reserves animals upon contract execution to mitigate risks in obtaining animals for a new study. WuXi AppTec's team is proactive, and the

infrastructure was and remains well equipped to navigate future challenges. Our animal supply has not been impacted by the global pandemic.

Obtaining Non-human primates (NHP) for R&D during COVID-19

For years, WuXi AppTec has helped our partners conduct assessment studies in NHPs. We recently purchased two NHP breeding facilities to enable a more seamless and accelerated turnaround time, and we have an ongoing supply of NHPs that allows us to move programs forward and keep compounds in China with full support.

The COVID-19 outbreak temporarily disrupted the international NHP supply when the Chinese government, in an effort to control the outbreak, banned all animal movement. The limitations around shipping within China have been lifted, and we do not anticipate any supply or timeline disruptions moving forward.

However, it is important to note there are current restraints surrounding shipping outside of China. The Chinese government has opened a special channel for COVID-19-related projects, but even that channel has proved complicated to access. With a deep understanding of the regulatory landscape, WuXi AppTec can help customers navigate the current limitations around access to resources and obtain permits required to ship NHPs.

Animal safety and integrity

The health and wellness of the animals in our care is of primary concern. Any colony outbreak would severely limit the number of animals available for COVID-19 and other novel research, thus keeping the virus out of NHP colonies is essential for therapeutic development. Our veterinary team is working closely with each vendor to enhance animal safety and maintain IACUC compliance within breeding colonies and laboratory facilities, and during animal transportation. Following transportation, all new animals are quarantined and examined by veterinary staff. These regulations have the dual benefit of protecting public health as well as reducing outbreaks with infectious disease during transportation and quarantine. The quarantine period provides the opportunity to conduct a physical exam of the animals, perform general health screening and screen for the presence of specific viruses by testing for viral-specific antibody or antigen.

The continued demand for NHPs increases the likelihood that new unknown agents will be identified. WuXi AppTec will continue rigorous application of the lessons learned about NHP quarantine over the past 60 years to ensure supply, timelines and experimental integrity are maintained.

WuXi AppTec scientists have concluded there should be no concern regarding the strain variance or the pathology of animals sourced in China versus that in North America. WuXi AppTec has an in-house collection of phenotypic data on commonly used and genetically diverse inbred animal strains. This not only enables investigators to identify appropriate strains, but it also ensures the integrity of the experiment and all testing conditions are maintained through transitions across testing facilities in China and North America.

We are living in shifting, uncertain times, and WuXi AppTec is here to accommodate any necessary adjustments. Communication and partnerships are a vital part of our service offering. WuXi AppTec is working diligently across the globe, adapting to new information and new realities. Putting customers first has always been at the center of our mission, and WuXi AppTec remains fully committed to providing timely and world-class quality service—all while ensuring steps are being taken in compliance with disease control guidelines pertaining to COVID-19.

If you need a reliable supply of animal models, or simply want to learn more, please complete the 'Contact Us' form at <https://labtesting.wuxiapptec.com/contact-us/> and a representative will contact you.

Contact Us to Learn More

labtesting.wuxiapptec.com | info_ltd@wuxiapptec.com

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