**Q&A Session for Resumption of On-Site Research Activities – August 12, 2020**

**Initial Comment:** Dr. Kaplan stated that nothing has changed with the rules/regulations sent to Researchers regarding resumption of research within the labs. Researchers are instructed to continue as usual and limit their time on-site to that which is necessary to get their studies and other duties accomplished. When possible continue to work remotely. The emails from John Nylen and Nancy Parsley were intended for those returning as part of the teaching programs.

**Q:** If someone is coming to the University for 1 day (i.e., CMS retreat) are they required to have a COVID test?

**A:** A COVID test is not required for a 1 day attendance at the University.

**Q:** For the Graduate student welcome meeting, what is the recommended procedure to handle this? Can we do an in-person meeting?

**A:** This should be done remotely. It was advised that a Zoom meeting would be best. Given the current environment, Zoom is the safest way to conduct the meeting. John Nylen stated that if it MUST be done in person, then the group must be limited to 3 people, wearing masks, distancing at least 6 feet and following all other regulations.

**Q:** There is an outside crew that is coming to film a video research article in the Center for Brain Function and Repair. What is required of this group?

**A:** When they arrive on-site, the Director of the Center should greet them at the entrance and escort them to the area where the filming will be conducted. They must follow all rules upon entry including screening questions, temperature check and wearing a mask. They must distance at least 6 feet apart while filming. Once the article is completed, they are to be escorted out of the building.

**Q:** Who is the new face that we see in the group Zoom?

**A:** Matthew Allard was introduced to the group by Dr. Kaplan. Stating that he will be working in the Research area on various projects out of Dr. Kaplan’s office, one of which will be providing additional assistance to Dr. Marr, the Assistant Dean for Research.

**Comments:** Dr. Kaplan stressed that any researcher wanting to have an undergraduate work in the labs during the upcoming quarters, must first contact him to discuss the circumstances before proceeding with an offer/hiring. The number of these undergraduate students must be limited, and it should be stressed that in the event of another scale back of research activities, these projects would be among the first to be ceased.

John Nylen asked for feedback on the Infrared temperature screening machines. The response was very favorable as it was stated that they were quick, easy and accurate.

**Q:** Can doors that are not to be used be labeled as such?

**A:** They could, however, it is not necessary as the key cards will not work on the restricted doors.
**Q:** A researcher will be traveling to NY in the next week. Must this individual quarantine for 2 weeks upon return to Illinois?

**A:** NY is not on the restricted travel list as of now, so no quarantine would be needed. Please continue to follow the list and quarantine as indicated by the states listed.

**Q:** What masks are not allowed at the University?

**A:** The university has not established a list of disallowed masks. However, valved masked are not recommended and studies show that gator masks are the least effective for containing droplets. It is suggested that all personnel use the University distributed cloth masks or 2 layer cloth masks or disposable surgical masks.

**Q:** If some have not yet received masks, where/how do they get them?

**A:** Vince Butera/Mail Services are distributing the masks for Centers/Depts as requested by the Admins. Becky Durkin’s office (Student Affairs) will be distributing the Students masks.

**Final Comment:** A vote was taken and it was concluded that weekly Q&A forums could be reduced from weekly to bi-weekly. The next scheduled forum will be August 26, 2020 at 12 Noon. Dr. Kaplan mentioned that if some question(s) arise prior to the next scheduled meeting, an email should be sent to him so he can address the concern in real time.