Q&A Session Regarding On-Site Research Activities – February 3, 2021

Initial Comment: Dr. Kaplan noted the new procedure for bi-weekly testing for all faculty, staff and students that begins shortly.

Q: When will research labs be fully opened and functioning back to normal?

A: This is impossible to predict, but will likely occur when we have reached herd immunity due to the vast majority of the population having gotten vaccinated and case counts remaining low for a sustained period of time.

Q: Will the COVID vaccine be administered at RFUMS? If so, when will this happen?

A: The University has moved a -80 freezer to the clinics and is ready to receive vaccinations for distribution. We are awaiting word from the Health Department and expect that to happen in the very near future. Be advised the University will distribute vaccinations in strict accordance with the priority guidelines set forth by the Lake County Health Department.

Q: Bob Jackson indicated that work will continue on the 4th floor of the IRP. This will require shutting down the compressed air. Will this be a problem?

A: Dr. Kaplan noted that he will be alerted prior to this happening. Once he is notified of the date/time (looking to do this in the early hours of the day [7-8 AM]), Dr. Kaplan will forward an email to inform all the research center directors and check for any scheduling conflicts.

Q: Empty Kimwipe boxes are located on some of the doors in the IRP. Who is responsible for replenishing these wipes?

A: Research Centers are responsible for replenishing depleted stock as needed. Someone will let Drs. Hastings and He know that their common area is out of Kimwipes and needs to be replenished.

Q: Regarding the vaccine, is there a specific vaccine (Moderna vs Pfizer) that is preferred over the other?

A: Whatever vaccine is available and you can get, do it. All approved vaccines are quite effective at preventing severe Covid cases and death. So if you are able to get any vaccine seize the opportunity subject to any personal medical restrictions.

Final Comments:

Dr. Oblinger will be sending around an email for those who are potentially exposed to areas where animal studies take place. There is a required (every 5 years) on line Occupational Health and Safety form that must be filed by all those who may be in contact with animals. This is required for IACUC.

Finally, anyone who has not completed the Research Integrity training that was due on 2/1/2021 must do so IMMEDIATELY.

The next scheduled Q&A session is March 3, 2021. However, if you have something that comes up before then, please reach out to Dr. Kaplan’s office directly.