Q&A Session Regarding Resumption of On-Site Research Activities – July 1, 2020

Initial Comments:

1) Michael Griffin reminded everyone of the attire policy required for laboratory workers. He stressed that long pants, closed-toed shoes, goggles, masks, lab coats, and gloves must be worn in the lab. The lab attire policy will be re-sent to all researchers immediately following this session.

2) Monica Oblinger stressed that the same EHS policies and procedures must also be adhered to within the Biological Resource Facility. With regard to masks – within the BRF no cloth masks should be worn, but rather disposable masks only.

Questions/Answers

Q: When can resumption of use of microwaves/refrigerators and other common items be expected?

A: Dr. Kaplan indicated that we need to hold steady for now, as trends/numbers are beginning to rise in Illinois. We need to be mindful and keep things as they are for now.

Q: When might we get the cloth masks? Do we have an estimated time for their arrival?

A: John Nylen indicated that 9000 masks were purchased of adjustable sizes, so they should fit everyone. Delivery is expected within the next week to 10 days. A plan for storage and distribution is being determined and we will be advised once that is decided.

Q: Will visitors/vendor be provided with the cloth masks?

A: All guests to the University will receive the same screening process as employees. They will be provided a disposable mask (not cloth) and are expected to wear it. If staff have a guest/repair person expected on Campus, they must greet them at the building entrance after the screening process and escort them to the lab/area where work is to be performed. When the work is completed they should be escorted out. There should not be any wandering of the halls.

Q: Is there any other screening App available? Android phones do not support the current App.

A: Microsoft and United Health have a similar App. This requires registering with an email account, so be warned that you will most likely receive information and messaging from them. If you do not wish to have this, the IOS apple app can be viewed on a computer. Just following the instructions and print a copy of the results to share with RFU Security when you come to the IRP entrance.
Q: With more instructors and students coming to the University in July/Aug, how will this be handled?

A: There will be more traffic as we head into the academic year; teachers, students, and administration who will be needed for the LCME visit will be coming in periodically. Additional security and cleaning staff and infrared temperature screening options are being sought. We are planning to ramp up procedures/staff as quickly as possible to be able to accommodate the increasing numbers as we progress.

Q: There have been stations near the IRP laboratory entrance/exit areas with depleted sanitizing/cleaning supplies. Who is monitoring this and how is it being replenished?

A: Each Center should be monitoring their own space. Patty Loomis has some additional supplies and can provide to those who are in need. Don, Nathan and Mitch have agreed to check on supplies periodically and report back to Facilities when supplies need to be replenished.

Q: What manufacturer/type of thermometers are being used?

A: J. Nylen was uncertain of the brand but they were acquired through the University Clinics and are hand-held, touchless thermometers. As capacity ramps up these will be replaced with infrared scanners and the aforementioned thermometers will be used in the clinics.

**Final Comment:** Dr. Kaplan mentioned for everyone to make sure to continue wearing masks in any and all public areas where they may encounter other individuals as outlined in the *Resumption of On-Site Research Guidelines.*