Q&A Session for Resumption of On-Site Research Activities – July 15, 2020

Q: The main door to Brain Function Center is unsecured. Can you tell me if this is on the list to be placed on key card access?

A: Per Bob Jackson the door is scheduled to be upgraded to key card access.

Q: Will Security be manning the doorways for 8 hours/day?

A: Once staff is hired, and we are fully able to – all entrances to the University will be staffed approximately 7 AM – 5 PM.

Q: What is the policy/prediction as to what may trigger another shut down? It takes 8 weeks to grow cells in my lab and wanting to keep both staff safe and cells growing, how should I best proceed?

A: All shutdowns are dependent on infection rate, Governor’s mandates, and county directives. We want to try to stay open, but it is partly out of our control. We suggest you begin the work and in the event of another shutdown the University will deal with things on a case by case basis. Any hot spots that arise within the university will be dealt with independently. Steps would be taken wherever feasible to allow the aforementioned project to continue for a period of time so it could be brought to its conclusion in order to minimize any significant financial/scientific hardship.

In the meanwhile it is imperative that we all continue to wear masks, face shields (when required), lab coats, social distance and continue to adhere to all CDC guidelines to prevent an internal spread.

Comment
A faculty member stated that his friend who works in a COVID hospital indicated that the hospital has been restored back to normal services. He believes that IL is handling things well.

Q: One of our scientist’s temperature was taken this morning when entering the IRP and it registered 93.5 degrees. This is very low indicating that the thermometer is not accurate.

A: Infrared screeners have been ordered for every entrance of the University. They are expected to arrive within a week or so. They are more accurate than the hand-held thermometers.

Comment
One of our colleagues recently got a haircut. His barber said she had been tested, but was still awaiting the results after 9 days. Kudos to RFUMS as they are turning test results around within 24 hours. They are doing a great job.

John Nylen indicated that RFU is contracting with several academic organizations to do increased testing in August. That coupled with the testing of some of our own students will markedly ramp up the volume the clinic and lab will be processing. Both are gearing up for this push.

Q: Any determination as to when we will be able to use common area items such as microwaves and refrigerators?
A: We need to still give this time as there is no way of manning the areas to be sure there is sufficient cleaning supplies and staff to handles and other common-touch surfaces. We need to be cautious. Water fountains in the IRP have had the spouts removed and once cleaned and tested – the water filling stations will be available.

Q: What does the return of the students look like in August?

A: The infrared scanners will be in place at all 4 entrances staffed with security 7 AM – 5 PM. Work from home is still recommended where feasible. Precovid, on a typical day approx. 600 employees and 1200 students would be on campus. In August we estimate it will be more like 100 employees and 500 students daily – as there will also be online learning occurring and all meetings will continue to be held virtually via Zoom. If you need to be in the office – limit the time and stagger with other officemates.

Q: What is the procedure if you test positive?

A: For faculty and staff - report your positive test to HR. Call your physician and stay home until you are fever/symptom free for 7 days or 14 days since the onset of your symptoms. Must have release from your doctor before you return to work. Additional information is on the RFU Covid19 site.

John Nylen said they are looking to hire a Contact Tracing person. The positive cases will be reported to him/her and to the Lake County Health Dept who will help determine and guide as to the correct next procedures.

Q: I was not able to download the app for the Iphone. Where can I find the information to get the correct app?

A: The power point training session is loaded on the COVID website. The information is in that presentation.

Q: There are 17 states listed as hot zones. How do we handle the students who may be coming from these states? Will they be tested?

A: All will be determined on a case-by-case basis. As information is available, determinations will be made. Continue with the safety guidelines, masks/social distance/wash hands.

Q: Is there any restrictions to employees regrading travel to these 17 states?

A: You are asked to let HR know. The University cannot prevent you from personal travel, but there is no University travel allowed.