Q&A Session On-Site Research Activities – May 5, 2021

Q: There are still issues with the Dark Room on the 2nd floor in the IRP. Can someone tell me why the red light is still flickering?

A: The darkroom was checked out by Happy Smith. He assessed that the fixture is good and not the problem. Mitch will take a bulb from another darkroom and try to see if this remedies the problem. Also, additional bulbs are being ordered so as to have a surplus on hand.

Q: When will refrigerators and microwaves be allowed in the IRP?

A: This was discussed at the Covid19 Oversight Task Force meeting. A University wide policy is in development and should be ready shortly. For now, there are no changes. Please be patient as we know that this is a priority and will aim for resolution in the coming weeks.

Q: For labs that are fully vaccinated, must we still maintain contact tracing calendars/logs in each lab?

A: If the entire lab is fully vaccinated and if it has been least 2 weeks after the last vaccine, then there is no need to continue the log.

It was thought that the J&J vaccine needs 4 weeks to be considered fully vaccinated. CDC states that the J&J vaccine is 66% effective after 2 weeks and increases to 85% after 4 weeks. Two weeks post vaccination is considered sufficient for access to the labs.

Comments:

Dr. Kaplan reminded everyone that for labs that have been totally vaccinated, the social distancing requirement has been reduced to 3 feet from the prior requirement of 6 feet. He also indicated that mask wearing must continue at all times and urged caution and additional PPE measures if working in close proximity is required.

Dr. Kaplan also noted that summer programs will begin as early as May 24 and that we should be aware of the increasing population on campus. He sees no problems and we should be ready to handle the extra presence.

An outside company will be coming to the University to assess the Emergency Power. This will require some shut down but all laboratories will be notified well in advance of this outage.

All were reminded of the fume hood shutdown scheduled for Friday, May 7, 2021 between 7:15 and 7:45 AM.

As a reminder, all autoclaves should be powered down at the end of the day. This helps in maintaining the longevity and working condition of the machines. Please be mindful and shut them down at the end of your day.

The next scheduled session is June 2, 2021 at 12 Noon. However, if you have something that comes up before then, please reach out to Dr. Kaplan’s office directly.