

## Q&A Session for Resumption of On-Site Research Activities – November 11, 2020

**Q:** If one is going to the University for a 15 minute interval, with no contact, on a weekly basis, are they required to take a COVID test?

**A:** The purpose of weekly testing is for your own safety and that of the university community. You are on the honor system with testing, but realize that the Lake County Infection rate is between 13-14% and you should be diligent with the procedures that RFU has put in place.

**Q:** Clarification of elevator use. Should it be single occupancy, 1 person at a time?

**A:** Please use common sense regarding the elevator. There are some elevators that are large enough to social distance, allowing 2 people at a time. It is safest to limit the elevator use to 1 person at a time thereby removing any chance for exposure.

**Q:** Will there be increased staffing at the University Clinics? Wait time currently is taking 2-3 days?

**A:** YES. There have been additional staff hired to answer the phones, as the Clinics are receiving 50-75 voicemails/day and 50 calls/hour. The current phone system is overwhelmed and not equipped to handle this volume. Please be persistent if you are a first-time caller and try back if you have not gotten a call back within 48 hours. Also, if you have been to the Clinics, you are encouraged to use the patient portal for scheduling. Be reminded, this is only after you have been to the Clinics previously and have established a portal set up. Please be patient and persistent.

**Q:** For the positive cases that have been reported to the University, do these arise from on campus exposure or from Clinical Sites?

**A:** Mainly from exposure at clinical sites or other off-campus interactions. To date there are approximately 90 reported (cumulatively) Faculty/Staff/Student cases.

**Q:** What are the rules for outside individuals coming into a laboratory?

**A:** Escort the individual to and from the laboratory, following all safety guidelines and social distancing and wear the proper PPE. Only for approved scientific reasons/needs should outside individuals be visiting the laboratory. Visitors should be limited - MINIMIZE extra people in the labs as much as possible.

**Q:** What if additional PPE is needed for the laboratory? Where can we get it?

**A:** There are small supplies within the University. If you need masks or gloves, alert your Center Director and they or their staff will get in touch with Sascha/Vince. If you need face shields, Dr. Kaplan's office has a supply. Please alert Julie Wagner.

For specific guidelines regarding the labs and BRF, please be sure to regularly view the policies here: <https://rfums-bigtrees3.amazonaws.com/files/resources/rfu-on-site-research-resumption-guidelines-6-3-202.pdf>

The link will have updates and past Q&A sessions for your review.

Please be reminded that you should do as much of your work as possible remotely. Calculations and administrative work should be done at home. Only lab-specific techniques and experiments should be done on-site. We need to stay mindful of all the rules and keep each other safe, especially during this second surge.

We will meet again on **December 2, 2020**, however, if you have something that comes up before then, please reach out to Dr. Kaplan's office directly.