

## Q&A Session for On-Site Research Activities – October 21, 2020

### Comments:

- 1) Dr. Kaplan commented on the increase in cases and positivity numbers. He reminded everyone that we cannot let our guard down and we need to be diligent in following all the necessary guidelines to stay safe. While we are all aware of the challenges and the increase in numbers in the surrounding states, we MUST follow all the rules: physical distancing, wearing PPE, and washing our hands.
- 2) With the Q & A meeting attendance being reduced from prior weeks, Dr. Kaplan suggested that we move the meeting frequency to every 3 weeks. The group thought this was reasonable.
- 3) There was a situation here a CO<sub>2</sub> tank hookup to an incubator leaked and caused drainage of the entire gas farm. It was advised that all hoses/tubes and regulators be checked to avoid any further leakage of tanks going forward and depletion of back up tanks. It is important that we not push the limits of the telemetry system and all labs be diligent regarding their current equipment and self-monitoring to the extent that they are able so as not to jeopardize the effectiveness of the back up system.

It was further noted that there is a spare tank of each gas located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the. Operations along with Dr. Kaplan are seeking out additional implementation of alarm systems and alerts to help identify and determine leaks before disaster and tank draining occur. Mitch Beales has offered his assistance in determining if there are problems with tank hoses and regulators currently in use. Please contact him if you need help.

**Q:** Kaiwan Kam is a new user of liquid nitrogen. Depending on need and usage is there possibility of getting a tank on the first floor of the IRP?

**A:** The usage will be monitored and determined if there is need for a tank on the first floor. If it is needed, it will happen.

**Q:** How does one know if one needs to be quarantined or if additional COVID testing may be needed when collecting samples from out of state?

**A:** Frequency of travels should be considered along with personal contact with other individuals and how long the stay in that state is. John Nylan suggested that if all guidelines are followed (i.e., physical distancing and proper PPE is used with no overnight stay and minimal personal contact) it's probably not necessary to report and/or be tested for COVID. HOWEVER, if you are there more than 1x / month and are spending several hours collecting data/samples, it is recommended, for your own safety, to be tested.

The next Q&A Forum is scheduled for November 11, 2020.