

Q&A Session for Resumption of On-Site Research Activities – September 9, 2020

Dr. Kaplan asked all Researchers to be on the look out for an email with modifications to the existing Research Resumption Guidelines. Within the next few days there will be an update to the existing guidelines indicating that if 2 or more lab personnel are not able to remain 6 feet apart for a prolonged period of time while performing their research (e.g., teaching a new laboratory protocol to a student, or a close quarters surgery) then COVID testing will be required following the RFU guidelines for on-site educational activities. The exact verbiage will be finalized and sent to all researchers shortly.

Q: With the removal of microwaves and disconnecting the water for refrigerators, how long might this be in effect?

A: This was done as an effort to minimize any possibility of COVID19 spread within the IRP. The policy will be reevaluated in 2 months based on local infectivity rates.

Q: Do we know where RFUMS stands in terms of its positivity rate?

A: Student Affairs (Becky Durkin's office) is maintaining those numbers and tracing patterns. If you want specific numbers, please contact her office.

Q: If someone leaves their ID badge at home, is there any way that Security could allow them access to the IRP?

A: YES. We are all human and sometimes forget things. No one should be denied access if they do forget their ID. They should contact Security. If Security will not escort them and allow them access, have the guard call Dr. Kaplan's cell phone (847-624-9028) and he will get them access.

Q: Furniture has been removed from common areas in the Neurobiology of Stress Center. If and when will these chairs be returned?

A: All furniture will be returned when the pandemic has waned. The removal was part of the effort to maintain physical distancing and keep the common break areas as safe as possible.

Q: When will the shuttle be back in service?

A: The information will come from John Nysten's office and it's hopeful that within the next couple of weeks it will be back in service with disinfection procedures, albeit at a reduced passenger capacity.

Q: What about Student volunteers in the laboratory?

A: All requests for volunteers in the laboratory should be sent to Dr. Kaplan's office with a new laboratory safety plan that includes physical distancing, hours of the volunteer and any other pertinent information to promote safe laboratory working environments for lab personnel. The Volunteer will also need a COVID test prior to starting in the lab. Once approved, EHS training must be completed before the volunteer can start in the lab. Dr. Kaplan MUST approve all volunteers. The amount of time spent in the lab should be limited and monitored.

Dr. Kaplan asked about EDUROAM. Has anyone had issues with connectivity to the wireless access in the IRP? Dr. Marr said it seems slow and he keeps a cable handy in the event that his connection becomes intermittent or dropped.

The next scheduled Q&A forum is at **Noon on September 23, 2020**