Biochemistry re-entry

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Contents

Return to work protocol (v0.1)

8/05/2020 Shoemaker/Pritchard

Western is preparing to get people back on campus. However, the new normal will not be the old normal. We are not at the end of this, just a (very) mild hiatus. Modeling suggests that there is a good likelihood of a second wave this fall, and continual recurrences until a vaccine is developed and implemented.

Core principles

1. follow all **local public health guidelines**
    - the current **workplace guidance document** is what we will have at the moment
    - stay home if you are sick, or have travelled
        - complete the **return to work questionnaire** at https://myhr.uwo.ca
        - this will likely be a daily occurrence
    - social distancing and enhanced hygiene practices
    - clean in and clean out of workspaces with an approved product containing the following **ingredients**
        - Accelerated hydrogen peroxide# (0.5%) 1 min contact
        - Benzalkonium chloride* (0.05%) 10 min contact
        - Chloroxylenol (0.12%) 10 min contact
        - Ethyl alcohol (70%) 10 min contact
        - Iodine in iodophor (50 ppm) 10 min contact
        - Isopropanol (50%) 10 min contact
        - Povidone-iodine (1% iodine) 1 min contact
        - Sodium hypochlorite (0.05 – 0.5%) 5 min contact
        - Sodium chlorite (0.23%) 10 min contact
        - **Health canada approved product list**
    - responsible for own safety and cleaning
    - FM will clean common areas and high touch-points

- signage on and in labs
- want to keep it as simple as possible

2. phased return
    - when allowed
    - return will involve multiple self-reporting questionaires
    - weeks, not days between phases
    - likely about 20% of workforce per phased
    - new normal will be 60% occupancy at most
    - shiftwork is being considered for teaching and research
    - each building will be isolated in some way
        - Western is considering building by building screening
        - probably impractical
3. remote work continues if possible
4. safety of individual is key
    - must accomodate individuals as needed
    - should not rely on PPE as wil be scarce and prioritized
    - lab pinch points are key concern
    - identify what is needed to restart now and get it ordered
    - lab by lab protocol
    - co-operation between labs for over and under utilized space
5. Each PI will generate a plan for each lab
    - lab-specific plans
    - keeping in mind all of the above
    - physical and temporal distancing
        - safety and mentoring
        - core facilities?
    - aware of all contacts and report if necessary
    - mentorship structuring
    - booking of facilities and equipment
    - PI prioritizes what works for them
    - be aware of, and sensitive to, others feelings and fears
        - there is a power imbalance
    - **example return to lab guidelines** google document
6. Guidelines may change in either direction on short notice
    - u-turns for non-compliance
    - u-turn if lab/building/institution becomes an infection focus
    - identified by lab director
    - Chair has responsibility to report

Needs and clarifications

1. Checklist for each lab
    - what PPE are required for each task?
        - what woud be the monthly needs?
    - what additional training is required?
2. General tracking system for individuals with ability to retrospectively inspect
3. Scheduling software (central, distributed?) for shift-working lab personell
    - registry and scheduling of people in adjacent spaces?
    - what kind of automated tracking can be enabled? that is touch free?
    - who is accountable for what?
4. Guidance on what rules take precedence. Health and safety, fire, and COVID-19 regulations seem to be at odds here. eg.
    - how do we keep open workspaces with good airflow and maintain fire regulation compliance?
    - how do we maintain good supervisory practices and shift work?
    - how do we do one-on-one hands-on training which is crucial for many instruments?
    - transportation to and from work - allowances for parking on campus given low density occupancy
5. Rules for accommodation

This is a nicely reasoned and explained post on the current state of knowlege: **know the risks blog post**