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
     - dilute H_2O_2
   - 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

1. Checklist for each lab
2. General tracking system for individuals with ability to retrospectively inspect
3. Scheduling software (central, distributed?) for shift-working lab personell
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?
5. Rules for accommodation

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