

Biochemistry re-entry

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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 questionnaires
 - 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 will 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

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