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Subject: A message from the Vice Chancellor of Research : Message regarding maximum research laboratory capacity
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8:36:00 AM

Dear Colleagues:

As we continue to open laboratories to lead in Phase II repopulation of the campus, we have received the following guidelines from our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Goodman, which we have paraphrased as follows:

The major factor for laboratory repopulation is the observance of a 6-10 rule, i.e. 6 foot of personal space and less than ten people in a laboratory. The 6 foot rule corresponds to a 3 foot radius of personal space around each individual. The 10 person per gathering rule will be phased out in the weeks to come, as it was originally designed to discourage large gatherings. In the laboratories, the 6 foot rule does not mean that individuals cannot pass each other for brief periods. Most reviewed science agrees that the droplet is the major form of transmission (cough or sneeze particles) and that aerosol spread (speaking and breathing) unless sustained in close contact is not a reliable means of transmission. A violation of that space needs to be 'sustained' or 'invasive' to be suspect for any potential for contamination. An example of 'invasive' is a clinical procedure in a hospital. 'Sustained' is roughly considered a 10-15 minute activity, although time is also not an absolute criteria as the type of contact or activity occurring during the time is also considered.

The VCR's memorandum of April 24 stated that a laboratory could accommodate one research per 1000 sq ft, based on guidelines shared by the University of California System. The UC System guidance was based on the existence of equipment, benches, fume hoods, etc., that take up substantial space in a laboratory, meaning that the available square footage would be substantially less.

The guidance above that we have received from Dr. Goodman now supersedes the 1000 sq ft per person guidance, as it is a campus-specific guideline taking into account our local conditions in Rolla. Working with Dr. Goodman the ad hoc lab access committee sent department chairs and center directors a request to estimate maximum laboratory capacity. The maximum laboratory capacity was intended to go on safety signs for the front of the laboratory doors. The lab access committee recommended a new format for laboratory door entry signs, which I approved, that included a maximum laboratory capacity. The committee recommended this as a simple safety parameter that could easily be adhered to in order to adhere to the social distancing parameters in the laboratory, as stated above.

The lab access committee provided the department chairs and center directors a quick guideline of 40 sq ft / person based on the campus social distancing guidelines stated above, i.e. a 3 foot radius around each individual. Clearly, the presence of laboratory benches and equipment makes it difficult to derive a general formula to convert laboratory area into maximum capacity, as benches and equipment may be within the "personal circle" but impact the overall grid spacing.

Understanding that this rule would not apply to every laboratory, the chairs and center directors were asked to provide stricter recommendations for maximum capacity when needed, in order to maintain social distancing guidelines.

We encourage you to work with your chairs/center directors to provide a recommended maximum capacity specific to your laboratory. This guideline will become increasingly important as we continue to repopulate laboratories. Our number one priority is to ensure the safety of our

campus community. At the same time, our second priority is to ensure that any guidelines put in place do not compromise our long-term ability to fully repopulate campus.

We must also stress that chairs and center directors are ultimately responsible to establish maximum capacity for research laboratories, and the ad hoc lab access committee will rely on their recommendations.

Moving forward, the primary guidelines you should consider is the 6/10 rule. If you have laboratory work for which it is unavoidable and necessary to be inside each others 6 foot diameter personal space, then appropriate PPE must be worn. Please work with Dr. Goodman, via the ad hoc laboratory access committee, to identify the necessary type of PPE for your particular circumstances.

If you have any questions, please feel free to address them with the ad hoc committee.

Best regards,

Michelle Bresnahan

Steven Corns

Kamal Khayat

Angela Lueking

Melanie Mormile

Ronald O'Malley

Costas Tsatsoulis