

[Everyone List] May 22 update: more patience

Everyone <everyone-bounces@chem.wisc.edu>
on behalf of

JUDITH N BURSTYN <burstyn@chem.wisc.edu>

Fri 5/22/2020 6:00 PM

To: everyone mailman <everyone@chem.wisc.edu>

📎 1 attachments (509 bytes)

ATT00001.txt;

I understand that you may be having conversations about research restoration and that you may have questions that we are not currently able to answer. Unfortunately, we are in somewhat of a holding pattern. We do not yet have the guidance we need to address questions or make specific plans.

We know that regulations around any return to laboratory access will be guided by space. We do not know how many people will be able to work in any one area. We know that entry into the building will be tightly regulated. We do not yet have a clear picture of what those regulations will be or who they will affect. We know that we will not have a situation in which anyone has unconstrained access to our facilities. We know that priority will be given to students and postdocs with urgent timelines. Other priorities will be to restore research activity to every group, but that process will take some time.

Planning with limited information is a challenge. We have been in contact with many of our peer institutions at all levels and with the Midwest Chairs network. We discuss the challenges to our research enterprise and our administrative services to make sure we consider all options. Most institutions are in a similar planning stage, with earliest possible restoration dates in mid-June and with limited personnel.

We are consulting researchers in our department who have expertise in aerosols and particle transmission, as they relate to airflow in our facilities. We hope campus will consider the specifics of our building and the needs of our research labs, and we are sharing relevant information with leadership.

The Continuity of Operations Team (COOP) has been meeting throughout the pandemic and discussing safe options for research restoration. We want to move forward, but our plans are not final until we have a clear vision from the university. For now, we have ideas about how to move forward – ideas that may change to accommodate regulations about which we do not yet have details.

COOP is working through the following teams:

- Physical Plant / Facilities Operation: Bob McMahon, Jeff Nielsen, Tim Bertram
- Research Priorities and Protocol Evaluation: Judith Burstyn, Clark Landis, Gil Nathanson, Helen Blackwell
- Research Operations / Departmental Support Systems: Pat Egan, Matt Sanders, Kayla Driscoll,

and Jeff Nielsen (deliveries / material distribution), Alan Silver (technology support)

- Safety: Ive Hermans, Tilak Chandra
- Communications: Tatum Lyles Flick, Kayla Driscoll, Arianna Imperl
- Technology: Alan Silver, Theresa Pesavento

One thing we would like to avoid is wasting your time asking for information that may not be relevant. We know that there will be a centrally administered application process. We don't know exactly what that process will ask for. To avoid diverting you from more important tasks, we must continue to ask for your patience in this stressful time. We know and understand that research and education are critical, and we will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Any questions or ideas may be submitted through the suggestion box here:

<https://suggestions.chem.wisc.edu/>.

Have a restful holiday weekend.

Judith

--

Judith N. Burstyn
Professor and Department Chair
Irving Shain Chair of Chemistry
Department of Chemistry
University of Wisconsin
1101 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: (608)-262-0328

FAX: (608)-262-6143