Acknowledgement and Attestation Regarding COVID-19

3/12/21

The COVID-19 pandemic has created substantial individual and community health risks that likely will remain until there is widely dispersed vaccine. Even with extensive planning and focus on the community’s health and safety, the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) cannot eliminate these risks. We can try to reduce risk to the community if each of us commits to fostering a culture of shared responsibility for our individual and collective health and safety. The MBL expects every person who comes to an MBL facility, whether as an employee, faculty member, other academic appointee, postdoctoral researcher, student, visitor, contractor, or volunteer, to adopt precautions designed to mitigate the risk of viral transmission. The MBL has outlined these safety precautions here.

All individuals must acknowledge and attest to the following before entering any of MBL’s offices, laboratories, classrooms, or other MBL facilities:

1. I have completed the MBL’s online COVID-19 Safety Training. I understand and agree to the guidelines set forth in the training which includes:
   - Maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from others whenever possible,
   - Washing my hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the day,
   - Using disinfecting wipes or spray provided throughout campus to clean surfaces and equipment with which I come into contact.

2. I will always wear a face mask covering my nose and mouth according to MBL’s Guidance for Using Masks. The only exceptions to required face coverings or masks are: (i) if I am alone in a private room with the door closed; (ii) when I am in a designated indoor break room with a minimum of eight feet distance from others; and (iii) in a designated outdoor location where others are not within six feet of me. I understand that reasonable accommodations will be made for anyone who has health conditions that prevent them from wearing a face mask.

3. I will conduct a Mandatory Daily Health Screening for COVID-19 symptoms every day before arriving on campus (whether off campus or at MBL), and I will monitor my health for new symptoms throughout the day. If I am experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, I will immediately inform my supervisor (manager, course director, PI, etc.) and MBL Human Resources, and I will not participate in MBL activities or enter any MBL facilities until approved to do so.
4. I will fully cooperate with the MBL’s contact tracing program and any contact tracing conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or other public health authorities. If I have been informed by the MBL and/or a medical or public health entity that I have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person then I will self-quarantine at home or in a designated housing location at the MBL for either 10 days with no symptoms or 7 days with a negative COVID test from day 5 or later.

5. If I have tested positive for COVID-19, I will seek appropriate medical care, if needed. I will contact human resources who may initiate campus contact tracing. I understand that the MBL may use the information that I disclose for the purposes of contact tracing, providing health and safety guidance to me and others, and/or for informing public health authorities. I will isolate at home or in a designated housing location at the MBL until the following criteria are met:
   a. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (if symptomatic) or at least 10 days have passed since my test date (if asymptomatic), and
   b. At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since recovery. Recovery is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and,
   c. Proof of a negative PCR COVID test.

6. While on campus and accessing MBL facilities, I will:
   • Not give anyone my MBL ID Card to access any MBL facilities and I will not let anyone into an MBL facility.
   • Sit only in seats designated and clearly marked as available in classrooms and other MBL facilities; and
   • Follow any posted procedures for entering and exiting MBL facilities, including classrooms, work areas, research spaces, and campus buildings.

7. For those living in MBL housing: I will follow MBL health and safety protocols for group gatherings both indoors and outdoors, whether on or off campus. I will not host, attend, or participate in any gathering that does not comply with MBL protocols. I will not invite or host non-MBL-affiliated persons, or MBL-affiliated persons not currently authorized for in-person attendance, to or on campus or in any other MBL facility.

8. I understand that travel can increase the risk of virus transmission and I will:
   • Limit all unnecessary personal travel while at the MBL and I will adhere to any MBL guidance on MBL-sponsored travel; and
   • If I must travel, I will comply with any quarantine and testing requirements based on guidance of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the public health agency of my travel destination.
ONGOING COMMITMENT
By choosing to enter MBL’s campus or any of MBL’s facilities, I am making an ongoing commitment to follow the COVID-19-related guidance and safety precautions communicated by the MBL. I acknowledge this guidance may change as new information becomes available, and that it is my responsibility to stay informed. I understand that the MBL relies on the commitment of every faculty member, other academic employee or researcher, postdoctoral researcher, student, visitor, and staff member to comply with all safety policies and guidelines. I understand that if we, as a community, do not adhere to the MBL and public health authority rules and guidance (both on and off campus), and a COVID-19 outbreak occurs, the MBL may need to end an on-campus experience.

INHERENT RISK
I understand that the MBL is taking steps to mitigate the risk of infection to members of our community. I recognize that COVID-19 poses a serious public health risk and that the MBL is not able to guarantee a COVID-19-free environment or eliminate the chance of infection and associated health risks. By entering the campus or any MBL facility, I acknowledge my responsibility to contribute to the collective efforts of the MBL community to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and I understand that these efforts will not eliminate the risk of transmission.

NON-COMPLIANCE
I understand that my failure to follow the requirements set forth in this attestation may endanger myself and/or others and cause further disruption of MBL research and educational activities. I understand that I may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to: (i) a written warning, (ii) suspension of MBL privileges including access rights to MBL facilities and other resources, and (iii) removal from MBL properties or dismissal from participating in MBL activities. If I believe that MBL required safety policies and practices are not being followed by others, I will promptly report such issues through the MBL Human Resources Dept hr@mbl.edu or Environmental Health & Safety safety@mbl.edu.

I AGREE