2024 COVID-19 Policy

May 20, 2024

Dear RMBL Community,

This memo follows up on the communication to the community on December 12, 2023 and consolidates how we will operate with covid-19 for the summer of 2024. In line with the CDC, RMBL will largely manage covid like other respiratory viruses.

Vaccination

1. We do not require COVID-19 vaccinations for onsite housing.

Housing

1. We will follow our longstanding policy for how we prioritize individuals for housing spots. If you feel that you are at increased risk to covid exposure and that our housing policy does not meet your needs, we recommend you find offsite housing.
2. We will have limited, if any, opportunities to quarantine/isolate individuals. When cases arise, we will take requests for isolation housing, but we will likely not be able to accommodate many of these.
3. If a person is in shared quarters and an outbreak occurs, individuals may request in writing a cancellation of housing fees if they leave the housing for health reasons. We will grant the cancellation request at our discretion if we determine that an individual is in tight living quarters during an outbreak.

Masking

1. We will require masks in shared lab spaces. We will work with scientists to ensure that there are mask requirements, particularly in the wet lab, that allow scientists to work in that space. Scientists with private lab spaces are not subject to mask requirements.
2. While masks are not required in any other spaces, we ask that ask that people be sensitive to others, either maintaining their distance or using masks if they are interacting with someone wearing a mask.

Positive Cases and Reporting

1. Individuals that are symptomatic or test positive for a respiratory virus should isolate themselves as best as possible and avoid facilities other than their cabin. Follow the CDC guidance for ending isolation.
2. We ask that sick individuals avoid the servery and dining areas of the dining hall, as ask for assistance for getting food and limit exposure to others in the facility.
3. While we do not require that you report to us if you test positive, to help identify and respond to onsite outbreaks, we ask that onsite residents let the Admin office know if they have tested positive.
4. RMBL has ethical and legal constraints around publicly sharing private health information. We often cannot share information about specific cases. The easiest thing is if roommates and others in close contact communicate among themselves or give us permission to communicate for them.

Public Interaction

1. We will limit general public access to indoor spaces and focus public programming to outdoor spaces when practical.
2. The Visitor's Center, Coffee Lab, and dining hall will be open to the public.
3. We will operate our K-12 programs with similar requirements as the RMBL community,

If you have questions or feedback about this policy, please contact Brett Biebuyck, Director of Administration, brett@rmbl.org or Ian Billick, Executive Director ibillick@rmbl.org.

We can't wait to see you this summer!