

Fermilab Community Advisory Board
March 26, 2020 Meeting

Becky Thompson, the lab's Head of Education and Public Outreach, welcomed the Community Advisory Board to the meeting being held virtually due to COVID19.

Amber Kenney, the lab's Chief Safety Officer provided a background with regards to COVID19. The lab has been monitoring the situation closely for many weeks and planning with the task force team meeting daily for five weeks. The team monitors and gets guidance from the CDC, Department of State and DOE and works with county health to understand local conditions, develop preparedness plan, and adjusts with new information. The number one goal is to make sure we protect people on site. The process positioned the lab to be prepared last Friday when the Governor announced the Stay At Home. Many employees were already teleworking and we safely transitioned the remaining people that had to leave. We are now in a mode where we are monitoring, and operations are proceeding safely.

Alison Markovitz, the lab's Chief Strategic Partnership Officer who oversees the Office of Communication and the Office of Education and Public Outreach – Our public website regarding covid19 is fnal.gov/covid19. It is important to us that community is aware of steps we are taking. We took a precautionary measure of closing the site to the general public that included tours, events, classes, walking and bike paths, and canceled public events through end of April. At the beginning of this week with the Illinois State Home Order, the numbers of telework increased, on site activities focused on current site and infrastructure safety and security, focused on maintaining the long term integrity of research and operations, supporting long term computing and the safety of village residents. There is no accelerator beam, site is closed to users except for those residing in village. There is a banner on the top of the home page on the lab's website to make it easy and clear for people to see our status and links to public restrictions, and the covid19 site.

Amber – The lab is staffed minimally on site with the fire dept and security along with maintenance people to make sure site is continually secure and can respond to emergencies. We are in the process of identifying essential on site personnel, while not a new procedure it is a bit different and tailored to this situation that required a few more people on site. Safety of the people is the most important aspect. The lab's fire department keeps in close contact with local departments nearby as first responders all over the county keep in touch and support each other. Environmental monitoring continues as that is compliance driven and we are responsible for continuing that effort with the people doing the work telecommuting and coming in to take samples and the analysis team on site full time.

Question: Does the facility have any extra masks to loan to local hospitals?

Answer: We have been asked by DOE to gather PPE and like most places have a supply, not an enormous supply, fire and medical have an inventory appropriate for them, those issues are being coordinated through DOE and it taking agency view of what is available and what is needed.

We donated to the national system early on when there was a request Tyvek jacket, booties and hoods and we were able to provide a few hundred dollars worth of PPE, especially Tyvek to another agency. Very early in the process we gave surplus to the FEMA stockpile.

Alison – As we transition to an online world, we are gathering educational and other resources and looking at ways to make them available. We have a playlist of our YouTube videos, educational videos. Education and Public Outreach is creating a new at home tab for collection of resources and virtual public tours. We are considering having a live facilitator narrate the tours in the future. Saturday Morning Physics is piloting an online session and looking to do more. We are also looking at elearning for education, virtual Art Gallery tours, even Fermilab Jeopardy, looking for ways to get resources, translating more materials into Spanish, adjusting to telework life in all aspects. The Resource Review Board for the DUNE experiment which are the international funding agencies typically meet in person. Next week people from all over the world will meet virtually and it likely will be the best attended with representation from Italy, Germany, Brazil, CERN, Japan, Mexico, France, connecting and discussing advancing DUNE.

Question: Are the grounds themselves closed to bikers/walkers?

Answer: Yes, until further notice. Most employees are working from home and we need to focus security to protecting employees on site and reducing exposure.

Question: As local ambassadors, is there any message you want us to put out into the community?

Answer: We want to make sure we are getting enough information out to community, being a member of the community is essential to us. We want people to understand we are compliant with state stay at home orders, have reduced site access to keep it safe and secure and are busy doing a lot of work every day within constraints such as the accelerator complex beam not operating. The lab is continuing its mission and looking at ways in which we can further contribute including resources online.

Question: If there is a stress point between federal and state, do you follow DOE or Governor?

Answer: Technically we follow the DOE and if you look at the Governor's order he did not apply it to federal government. However, we are a good neighbor and follow as much as we absolutely can, we don't want to be a source for any problem, and we aim to be held up as a good example of how to behave in these situations.

Question: Wondering what is going to happen after end of April, how might you roll activity back?

Answer: The lab has a recovery plan in development. There are many unknowns, different scenarios, exact sequence of how that would happen. We want to make sure our workers have the right support, such as schools and day care, in place before being asked to come back to work. We are looking at understanding how we would do that, the impact of illnesses, the right number of people to do the right work, special experts that are needed. The recovery plan is underway but can't give you any more than that we are asking the same questions you are.

Question: What is the status of construction plans?

Answer: We have been concerned, the government order does allow essential work to continue and we have evaluated those we believe are essential by looking at scheduled work, based on safety parameters and whether we could continue that work. We are using aggressive social distancing and correct PPE. We are looking at what can be done in a safe manner and, if it can't be done safely, we won't do it. This will have a big impact, just like every other organization we are figuring out what we can continue. Every day there are more surprises we are working through.

Thank you! We appreciate you and the community. If you have any questions later, please let Becky know and she will route to the best person to answer.