

THE Good Practice Sessions

Session 5: Wednesday 17th June 2020, 2pm

Plan: Weekly meetings held on Wednesdays (1hr sessions)

Key Topics that were discussed in this session:

1. **John Innes Centre walk-round**
2. **First returning back to work**
3. **Learning experiences from being back at work**
4. **How often should surfaces be cleaned?**
5. **Training and practicals**
6. **Handling biological samples**
7. **Visors for first aid bags**

1) John Innes Centre walk-round

Dr Clare Stevenson at the John Innes Centre has completed a video-walk around of her workplace to show Good Practice implemented at the Laboratory Research Institutions.

Covid-secure and safe working at the John Innes Centre:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-r4ONDDmfU>

Thank You Clare!





- Secure access to buildings
- 2m signage on floors
- Surgical mask and non-lab gloves at collection points
- Information points and notice boards
- Modify room layouts where appropriate
- Cleaning Information in communal areas
- Plenty of sanitisation stations
- Clear signs for travel on stairs and corridors
- Signs for maximum occupancy of rooms on doors
- Extra signs - If external contractors working
- Bins on corridors for paper towels

@JohnInnesCentre
@istonline

STAY
SAFE

2) First returning back to work

Give staff plenty of opportunity to adjust, to carry out their own risk assessments, and to sort their own work with their line managers. This can take a couple of days and communications should be opened up to ensure that everyone is happy with what is expected of each other.

This preparatory time to get ready has been adopted in some organisations. Staggered entering and leaving of the workplace should be carried out.

3) Learning experiences from being back at work

Three organisations highlighted their learning experiences from having been back at the workplace over the last few weeks.

- Lunch and breaks are starting to be re-introduced with social distancing, but it is quite hard being at work without social aspects.
- Updates are being reduced from line managers, but they are being very strict still with signing in and out of buildings and ensuring people know where people are. There is an element of feeling like they are being watched, but it is all for their safety, so it is necessary, but trust is also very important when working.
- Social distancing is being adhered to as they have had clear signs and floor markings around. It is generally fairly easy to remain distant as most buildings are spacious.
- Things are becoming quite routine now and people are sticking to one way systems.
- Clear communication is important from the top. It has been really important to look out for colleagues to ensure equal treatment and to check how they are doing, asking them how they are feeling and if they have any worries or concerns.
- Hands on teaching has been quite difficult when carrying out work over video conferencing so have had to adapt to working conditions.

4) How often should surfaces be cleaned?

Within laboratory environments how often are surfaces being cleaned?

In most organisations, Individuals are responsible for their own areas, and ensuring they wipe everything before they use it. Washing your hands regularly. Plenty of sanitisation locations.

In one organisation, their cleaners are cleaning twice a day. Some organisations, the cleaners are contacted to work only once a day; mid-day, and as they carry out shift work, then it can sometimes mean that places are not cleaned for people arriving the following day. Therefore, personal responsibility from each staff member should be taken to ensure everything they are handling is being cleaned by themselves first.

PPE and cleaning stations are advised to give access to these in areas around buildings.

Cleaning disinfectants and sanitisers should be in toilet facilities. If you are spraying handles, they should also be wiped down also.

5) Training and practicals

Training in some organisations are being handled where 1) if people are trained on equipment they can use these. If they are not trained, 2) training is put on hold for the time being and looking at blended and mixed learning alternatives are appropriate.

Some organisations are aiming to carry out practicals in 2021 and to ensure learning points are covered in fewer practicals, but there is still quite a bit of worry over whether laboratory practicals with students should be carried out.

6) Handling biological samples

The handling of human biological samples (human samples), such as blood plasma, tissue samples, serum, urine or sputum, should be carried out in level 2 containment cabinets with category 2 laboratory rules as a minimum, ensuring appropriate PPE is worn at all times.

PCR can be carried out to check samples, in certain research papers, they have identified low percentages of Covid-19 in human samples.

Best practice would be to handle samples in the same way as individuals would normally do. Several processes are in place for handling infectious diseases and these procedures should be maintained to work safely.

If you are carrying out aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) then you should risk assess these procedures and adapt your PPE accordingly.

7) Visors for first aid bags

Some organisations have been told to ensure first aid bags have face visors. It is possible to make your own visors (as many technical staff have been doing this for NHS professionals and there are lots of resources out there on how to make your own:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pd-sZAQLomg>

If you can't make your own (as you may need a 3D printer to make the head band, and a laser cutter to cut the Perspex), reliable companies that individuals have been using are Premier Scientific, Medisave and Quallsafe.

Anything more to add or comment on? - Contact j.p.ashton@istonline.org.uk