Re-Opening Conversation

15:38:33  From  S.C. Pryor : Is there any update on the threatened strike by R.A.?

15:38:34  From  Roberto Bertoia : How do the new CDC guidelines regarding testing affect Cornell's plans

15:39:10  From  Paul Ginsparg : just curious, Illinois (and other places) have moved to saliva rather than anterior nares, and also skip one of the reagent steps, claiming no loss in sensitivity. Have we been looking at saliva tests?  https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/on-campus-covid-19-testing/

"Our saliva test, compared to other saliva tests, skips RNA-isolation (a cumbersome process) which allows quicker results. Our test is faster, cheaper and eliminates a key supply-chain bottleneck.

Our studies to date are consistent with this new saliva test not being less accurate than the nasal test. Our studies to date show that to date our saliva test does not make this less accurate than other saliva-based tests."

15:39:52  From  Wendy Wilcox : Can you tell us more about the seat reservation system and when it will be in place

15:40:49  From  David Delchamps : Saliva test also gives reading on viral load, which correlates to how contagious someone is.

15:41:33  From  Roberto Bertoia : What is the average wait time to get tested?

15:41:33  From  Mark Wysocki : If a faculty member or staff are found to be positive, then do they find their own quarantined location or will Cornell provide a location?

15:43:18  From  Paul Ginsparg : Another question: student sampling at Harvard is done "unobserved", i.e., they just swab anterior nares and turn in the sample in a tube. Can that be done for faculty, or do we need to wait in line to be observed?

15:44:34  From  David Delchamps : Observed at Cornell as I recall.

15:45:18  From  Debbie Cherney : 6 credits hurts our students that take a course with a lab, mostly 4 hours. Why not 2 courses?

15:46:12  From  David Delchamps : Registrar claims they can't limit courses, just credit hours. I raised this issue with them for engineering students.

15:46:23  From  David Delchamps : I had the same 2-course idea.

15:47:00  From  Evan Cooch : The 4-credit lab class(es) are proving to be a real hassle for students, given the 6 credit cap.
15:47:38  From  Paul Ginsparg : or why not 8 credits? [re enrollment: my in-person course hit the cap within a few min of senior reg at 9a.m. today]

15:47:47  From  kwt3 : Also 4-credit courses that are not lab ... why 6 credits? Why not 7 or 8 credits?

15:48:13  From  Maria Gandolfo Nixon : I have several students that have complained about the number of credits that as well. Mostly because they need to take a 4 credits course and a 3 credit course.

15:48:15  From  David Delchamps : Registrar claims they discussed 4, 6, and 8 and settled on 6. Two courses would have been so much better.

15:48:16  From  andrea simitch : we have paused on auto-registering our advanced students in their required 6 credit studios for just this reason!

15:48:41  From  Evan Cooch : Enrollment in my 4 credit classes tanking because students have told me they don’t want to be left with a '2-credit decision'. Or some such...

15:49:08  From  Oren Falk : I’ve heard of students shopping on reddit for fake quarantine addresses. is anything being done to monitor that?

15:49:13  From  kwt3 : Why is the registrar allowed to make this decision?

15:49:56  From  David Delchamps : Wasn’t a solo decision by registrar. VPUE and re-opening committee were also involved.

15:50:15  From  kwt3 : It still does not make good academic sense.

15:50:31  From  David Delchamps : Agreed!

15:50:51  From  Michael Kotlikoff : Talked about RA’s. No strike

15:51:49  From  Michael Kotlikoff : CDC guidelines do not affect our ability to do surveillance testing. The guidelines are very controversial and I have serious concerns about the approach. We could not open without surveillance testing.

15:52:32  From  Paul Ginsparg : the 10 students in the circle are not fully 6’ spaced

15:52:47  From  Evan Cooch : That picture is polar opposite of the reality you see walking around CollegeTown at night.

15:52:49  From  Michael Kotlikoff : Yes, there are some advantages to saliva testing - also some disadvantages. We don’t see a compelling reason to switch at this point and it would be very difficult to do this while maintaining our surveillance.

15:53:54  From  Michael Kotlikoff : I don’t have the latest on seat reservation (as to when it will begin). My understanding is that students will be able to use OpenTable to reserve spaces.

15:54:18  From  neemakudva : Open Table has started on West Campus and other locations

15:54:46  From  Michael Kotlikoff : David, all PCR testing gives information on viral load by quantifying the number of PCR cycles. That is not an advantage of saliva testing.
15:55:51  From  Michael Kotlikoff: Testing has been fairly smooth with the exception of the storm shutting down the Mall on Sunday. We have opened more slots to cover students not being able to get appointments.


15:56:44  From  Michael Kotlikoff: The system will allow a location to be chosen or will allow you to change the assigned location.

15:57:03  From  pat: https://covid.cornell.edu/students/behavioral-compact/

15:57:31  From  Michael Kotlikoff: We are planning to move to “unobserved” testing after everyone gets used to the system.

15:58:10  From  Michael Kotlikoff: Debbie, trade off between 6 and 8 credits.

16:02:57  From  pat to Jill Short (Privately): you can take the photo away, thanks.

16:03:13  From  Andrea Simitch: I apologize, but could you repeat the details you already mentioned re WHERE those faculty get tested who have been notified they must get tested routinely twice a week? Thanks.

16:05:50  From  David Delchamps: We’re supposed to identify most convenient location and make an appointment, as I understand it. Unfortunately all locations close 4:30 PM daily.

16:06:00  From  David Delchamps: Many locations!

16:10:16  From  pat: locations starting on 9-3: CVM, RPCC, ILR, Willard Straight, Fischell Band Center, Collegetown, Livestock Pavilion

16:10:46  From  Neemakudva: @Andrea — testing site details available at

16:10:48  From  Neemakudva: https://covid.cornell.edu/testing/

16:11:02  From  Andrea Simitch: Thanks!

16:11:28  From  Neemakudva: Surveillance testing locations and hours

Robert Purcell Community Center, Multipurpose Room, Room 218

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

Willard Straight Hall, Library, Room 404

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

Collegetown Terrace Apartments, Fitness Center
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

Fischell Band Center
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

Livestock Pavilion:
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

ILR Conference Center, King Shaw Hall, Rooms 225 and 229
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

College of Veterinary Medicine, Classroom 6
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday

Note: This location is available to those approved for CVM facility access.