Covid Call Notes – Week 5

**PPP Funding:**
Several new lab members have now received their PPP funding or have been approved.

Is the EIDL loan funding available to companies who received PPP?
YES, but there are loan forgiveness implications and possible applicable deductions from the PPP funding.

SEC. 1106. LOAN FORGIVENESS. d 2 A i

**HR:**
Why shut off e-mail to a “temporarily laid off” employee? Turns out employees can claim, with appropriate proof, compensation for hours he/she worked while furloughed. Some employers want to shut down this path to “additional compensation”.

What criteria have been determined regarding when an employee has had Covid 19 and when can they, or should they return to work?
The CDC has guidelines for when an employee may return after exposure. I just read someplace its 14 days from diagnosis or 7 days since symptoms, whichever is longer? We also cross-referenced our state Dept. of Health website for guidelines as well. Maybe California's COVID site...

**Covid 19 Testing:**
We discussed the opportunity for labs with PCR capability to assist with Covid 19 testing.

See this link to today's on-line C&E News:

This could be a good business opportunity for those environmental labs that have PCR capability. The FSS inventory of ACIL member PCR inventory could be useful starting point.

Here is the study I mentioned on the call today:
ORELAP Audit Concerns:
There is still a concern regarding Oregon and possibly other States doing paper laboratory audits. Kim Ramsey will report back to staff after her meeting with ORELAP later today and we can determine if further action needs to be contemplated.

Masks:
Is anybody offering their employees N95 masks? If so my understanding is that you need to provide proper training on using them. What approach have you been taking? Any liability concerns

1. Yes, agreed that N95 two-strapped masks count as respirators. Require training...
   However I did read yesterday OSHA is being more lenient with enforcement on some of their requirements if you are acting in good faith. OSHA has a Covid19 page.
2. We’ve yet to have masks required by our county so I’ve been giving staff the message regarding cloth face coverings that CDC used.
3. Are you requiring your staff to wear facemasks or just saying if they want to wear one any they have one, they can wear it?
4. Not requiring just letting them know its okay to. I sent a memo today that basically explained county recommendations, CDC info plus let my staff know that any sort of bullying/teasing about mask wearing was not acceptable.
5. We’ve got social distancing mandates so that’s been my enforcement focus
6. I think CINTAS does training too maybe for respirators
7. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdqcKHSIrrM that video is 3M training video
8. https://wyze.com/ has some now
9. We have not tried to source N-95 masks as they are not required for response to COVID19. In every instance I have seen, N-95 masks are not a requirement - in fact the CDC has said not to use them to allow the supply to be used by healthcare professionals. CDC has no guidance currently requiring masks to be worn in a business environment only a public environment. PA has required manufacturing facilities which remain open to institute a cloth facial covering requirement. At RESTEK we have both laboratories and manufacturing facilities, so this is somewhat applicable to lab members.
10. We have also heard from friends of his who ordered their masks from Alibaba, but the reason he didn’t mention this in the meeting was it’s so unclear regarding product specs and shipping details. Alibaba’s products (which is the Chinese version of Amazon) and Amazon’s Business products from China may vary in their manufacturing specs for an N95 equivalent product. N95 is a NIOSH designation, which is US-based, and other countries have different agencies with their own specs which may vary. For example, Korean spec is called KF80 and KF95. Because of the varying specs among different countries, masks ordered from Alibaba, for example, may vary in quality unless this is clearly indicated. In addition, orders above $800 for imports to the US may face custom process.