

Brief Friday Email (Thursday Edition)

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Good afternoon,

Out of the Office—Trying to burn vacation time prior to my April anniversary. I will be out of the office tomorrow and all of next week. Robert Edwards does not expect to be back prior to Thursday of next week and it may be later. I have asked Alissa to serve as Deputy Director in our absence. I will monitor email and be available by phone (except during Illini basketball games 😊)

Vaccinations—I encourage all who are able to get vaccinated as soon as possible. I do NOT *require* it, but hope that everyone will give due consideration. If you choose to get vaccinated soon in Sangamon County, I ask that you attempt to do so on your own time. But if you cannot, after clearing the absence with your supervisor, I will grant full-time employees up to 3 hours of paid time to do so. If you are eligible to receive your vaccination in Macon County (due to age or medical condition), I will allow up to one hour paid time to do so for full-time employees. Once you are fully vaccinated, you will no longer be sent home for 10 days or required to get two COVID tests if you are experiencing mild COVID-like symptoms---UNLESS you have also had close contact with a confirmed case (and of course, staying home while symptoms persist is recommended and what we used to do in the olden days of 2019 and before). This works in reverse also. If you have had close contact, but do not experience symptoms—we will not require quarantine for the 24 days. That said, it will still be best to avoid contact with known cases and continue to wear a mask and social distance until national herd immunity is achieved. There may be other advantages coming—and everything, as we have learned, is subject to change.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you--

Rick Meyer
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