

PHPS shifts – the pandemic and proposal for change

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Shifts in 2021

- RG-I (HPS) will be on the floor for 57 days from August 23 to October 16.
- It is hard to imagine that things will go back to normal by then and we will run the experiment with a pre-pandemic shift-taking routine.
- International travels most likely will not be permitted (affects ~40% of HPS collaborators) and it is not clear in what state the domestic travels will be. Covering shifts without full collaboration support will not be easy.
- We should plan to avoid Ad hoc solutions during the run or shut down the run. One of the mitigating options, as experience showed, is to reduce in-person shift taking.
- The proposal is to start a discussion on changes to our shift policy, in particular:
 - keep two-person shifts
 - have the only expert in the counting room – mandatory
 - allow worker shifts to be carried out remotely - if the remote institution meets the requirements (see below)
- Shifts still will be distributed the same way, the only change is the option of taking the worker shift remotely. For this to work, of course, some conditions have to be met
- As a first step, we (EC) should appoint a couple of people to assess the pros and cons of the new shift arrangement and come up with a proposal on how to organize it

Things to decide for the new shift arrangement

- Can we run safely and efficiently HPS with shift expert in the counting room and a remote worker
- Requirements for the remote shift taking – responsibilities of institutions taking the remote shifts
- Responsibilities of the remote worker shift – job description (may be different from in-person worker)
- Tools for remote shifters – we have some, but more will be needed or 2-factor requirement to login to clon PCs
- Shift duration – it is 8 hours but does not need to be. We can go to 6 hours to make it easier for a single person in the counting room
- Credit for the remote shift taking – should it be the same as for the in-person shift
- Requirements for on-call expert services – a single person will need more help
- ...

Again, we may have a reduced presence of collaborators and personal on-site for the summer run. Organizing the shifts with not fully staffed counting room will be important and all above are applicable