

# CLAS shifts during the pandemic and proposal for the future

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# Shifts in time of pandemic (2020)

- A bit over a month into the RG-F (Bonus) run in February-March, we got hit with travel and on-site restrictions due to the pandemic. In the last days of the spring run (before the March 24 shutdown) we had to drop the day and swing worker shifts – not enough people were available for taking shifts
- Instead of the in-person worker, we implemented the so-called “ghost shifter” concept, an on-site person, who carried a dedicated on-call cell, followed the run from his/her office, and could be in the counting room on short notice
- During the RG-F summer run, things were a bit different. JLAB MEDCON-5 restrictions allowed only essential people on-site (no people in the offices) and of course no travels
- Again, we had only an expert present in the counting room during the day and swing, and the expert and worker for the owl shifts. With on-call help and the almost constant presence of RC and PDL in the counting room, this shift arrangement worked reasonably well and we pulled it off
- A couple of weeks into the run, we initiated a "remote shift" concept to support the single-person shifts. It was a volunteer effort, turnout was not great, but still, several collaborators participated (7)
- The experience with the remote shifts was positive. Suggestions for efficient work can be summarized as:
  - a. better visual and audio connection with the counting room
  - b. more tools for the remote shifter to contribute
- While the ad hoc solutions worked, it was a huge burden on locals – JLAB staff, collaborators from ODU, CNU, W&M, RU and several of our locally based users (regular shifts, on-call expert responsibilities, RC, PDL)

# What about shifts in 2021

- RG-M will be on the floor for 64 days from October to December. It is possible that things will go back to normal by then and we will run the experiment with a pre-pandemic shift-taking routine. However, if some restrictions will still remain, e.g. international travels, covering shifts without the full collaboration support will not be easy
- To be on the safe side, we may want to be prepared and plan ahead to avoid Ad hoc solutions in the fall. One of the mitigating options, as past experience showed, is to reduce in-person shift taking
- We may have to do the reduction of in-person shifts for the upcoming run due to the restrictions, but the reduction, if we can run CLAS12 safely and effectively, will be beneficial for a long run
- Today's proposal is really 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, CCC may want to appoint a committee 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 CLAS12 and other ancillary equipment necessary for the experiment with an 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
- 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 and provide more opportunities for the collaborators to take expert in-person shifts
- 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
- Mechanism for training experts – can stay the same
- ...

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