

## COVID-19 RESPONSE BY MIC updated for 5/19/2021

Pursuant to Executive Order No. GA-36 under Governor Abbott's orders, the Microscopy and Imaging Center will no longer require face coverings in the facility. If you have not been vaccinated, face coverings are highly recommended to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**As we move forward, safety and health is our number one priority. To help us with this effort, please follow the guidelines below:**

***As you know, the Microscopy and Imaging Center is a core facility on campus, and as such we will be implementing precautions in order to safely continue research while sharing resources across many labs, many people, and many hands.***

Please note the following policies effective **immediately**:

1. If you have any cold- or flu-like symptoms or have been around someone with COVID-19, do **NOT** come to the MIC facility. If you or a lab mate communicate by email with our staff, we will be happy to assist you by collecting data for anything that cannot wait until your quarantine period is over. Health is the number one priority! If you have been to the MIC and then test positive for COVID-19, you are required to report to your supervisor that you have been to the MIC so that we can inform other users who were in the center at the same time. Your privacy will be protected in this communication.
2. The MIC will have staff available for instrument servicing help during normal business hours.
3. Training will be resuming with social distancing precautions in place. If you would like to be trained on an instrument, please contact the research staff assigned to that instrument first. At this time, we will need to limit in-person training to **one user** at a time to abide by social distancing protocols. We may provide some training via Zoom.
4. **You are required** to bring your own unused gloves to the facility. Please bring several pairs.
5. The following are the guidelines that **must** be followed when **physically present** in the Center.
  - a. Do not enter the MIC without bringing your own unused gloves to the facility.
  - b. Once you enter the MIC hallway, you will need to follow the sign and sign-in with your name, date, and the time.
  - c. Sanitize first before using the kiosk or entering any instrument rooms.
    - i. There is provided hand sanitizer at the kiosk station.
    - ii. There is also provided 70% ethanol provided in the kitchen area if you need to sanitize your gloves.
    - iii. *Note: There is also a nearby sink in the kitchen area with hand soap and paper towels that you are welcome to use for better sanitation after using the provided sanitizer. Please use the appropriate 20 second rule of hand washing in order to eliminate all germs.*
  - d. After using the kiosk, please put on your own pair of unused gloves.
  - e. When wearing gloves DO NOT touch your cellphone, your face, other body parts, or unnecessary pieces of equipment in instrument rooms.
  - f. Check doors of instrument rooms to see how many people can be allowed in a room at any one time. In all rooms there can only be 2 users at one time but some smaller rooms can only have 1. Lab users should practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from others while possible including talking with the MIC staff or other users.
6. Lab users should follow all of these rules and regular lab safety rules. If anyone is found to be acting in a way that is not compliant with these policies **they will be asked to leave** the MIC facility immediately and indefinitely.

Research scientists will regularly sanitize keyboards, desks, instrument displays, door knobs, light switches, etc. in all of the MIC facilities.

**Additionally, all Lunch & Learn Seminars, meetings, lectures, etc. at the MIC have been cancelled through the end of the semester.**

\*\*\*These policies will be ever-changing as we monitor the health situation and follow all University guidelines so please check back for new changes.\*\*\* For questions, email Ashlyn Montgomery, [amontgomery@tamu.edu](mailto:amontgomery@tamu.edu).