

SEMC COVID-19 modified access policies

Dear SEMC user,

In response to the ongoing spread and concern regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), the NYSBC is implementing policies to help limit travel and exposure of our staff and user base. In accordance with these policy changes, SEMC will modify access and operations in the following ways:

- Until further notice users will not be permitted on-site to use instrumentation. Instead we will take in user samples and grids and staff members will perform vitrification and screening under directions from the user. Please note that the number of samples that we will be able to take in and the number of hours spent screening will be limited by staff availability, but we are committed to doing our best to lessen the impact of these policy changes on your research.
- Sample and grid intake will occur during designated hours (Mon - Fri, 9 - 11AM and 1 - 3PM) in a designated location (SEMC entrance). This includes Krios grid drop off. Please DO NOT come on-site if you are feeling sick.
- During screening sessions users can log on and view images on the Appion and Legion Tools webpage (emgweb.nysbc.org) and provide feedback to the staff member operating the screening microscopes.
- Krios usage will continue as normal except that users will not be on-site during their session, but can log on and view images on the Appion and Legion Tools webpage and provide feedback to the staff member operating the Krios.
- Scheduled user meetings will continue in a remote format by phone call and/or video conference.

Users should continue to reserve the instrumentation needed for their research. The major change will be that SEMC operational staff members will carry out experiments instead of the experiment being user-driven. For detailed information see our website:

<https://semc.nysbc.org/covid-19/>.

We will continue to update users as the Coronavirus situation evolves. Please email emg@nysbc.org for any questions/concerns. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Simons Electron Microscopy Center
New York Structural Biology Center