

From: Ed Eng <eeng@nysbc.org>
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Ed Eng <eeng@nysbc.org>
Subject: Re: SEMC COVID-19 modified access policies

Dear SEMC User,

The situation in New York State is changing very rapidly. Today the Governor has put New York State on PAUSE (Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone): mandating that 100% of the workforce must stay home excluding essential services. In response to this, the Simons Electron Microscopy Center will close until the situation becomes more clear. The final onsite staff members left the center today Friday, March 20 before 5pm.

Any samples in the center will be stored until further notice. Our final team made sure to top off the LN2 sample storage dewars. If you were confirmed for a Krios session please expect a follow-up email with more details.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Please check out webpage: semc.nysbc.org for updates. We are committed to doing our best to lessen the impact of these policy changes on your research and hope to see you at the center in the future.

If you have additional questions let us know how we may help. We hope you stay safe and healthy!

Kind regards,
Simons Electron Microscopy Center
New York Structural Biology Center

From: Ed Eng
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 2:38 PM
Subject: 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 drop off samples/grids 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