

Structural Biology Core Staged Reopening: Return to Research Update for Users

As the university's research community returns to campus, we will do our best to accommodate research needs within the Return to Research guidelines outlined below. This begins Monday, June 15, as we enter Phase 2B.

Please refer to the OVPRI [Return to Research page](#)

1. **Most importantly**, core services will be provided only to those persons who are authorized to be on campus during each corresponding phase; who have completed mandatory training; and who have made their daily attestation of health status prior to entering VCU premises.
2. Prioritization will be first given to internal COVID-19 research, then VCU researchers with NIH funding and early career researchers. Imminent grant proposal dates or manuscript resubmissions (with proof) may also be considered. All other internal research follows. External use will not be approved during this phase. All prioritization will be decided by the core director, Dr. Safo, and/or the manager, Faik Musayev. If a dispute arises, the core director will consult with the VCU director of research infrastructure. Per guidance from the OVPRI, services charged against an internal VCU financial index will be considered internal for the purpose of prioritization, while all others will be considered external, regardless of the investigator's status with respect to VCU affiliation.
3. The number of users in the core space is limited to comply with the regulation for R2R of 1 person per 250 sq ft. This may increase as we transition to subsequent phases. No one is to enter the core unless it is his or her scheduled and confirmed time on the X-ray instrument.
4. Multiple individuals within a room are required to maintain a personal distance of 6 feet whenever possible.
5. The scheduling calendar is closed until further notice. Contact only the core manager, Faik Musayev (fmoussae@vcu.edu) for scheduling. This allows the Structural Biology Core to accurately space users so that equipment can be thoroughly cleaned after each use with 70% ethanol. It also allows the core to comply with operational use at this time and with each change in staging.
6. Users are also encouraged to drop off sample for data collection by the core manager.
7. Contact the core manager to schedule appropriate time to drop off sample.
8. When emailing to schedule or drop off sample for the Structural Biology facility, you **must** receive a confirmation email back from Faik Musayev or you are not considered scheduled.
9. When arriving for your scheduled time, please do not enter the facilities early. You **must** wear a mask and gloves and abide by social distancing whenever possible. **You will not be allowed to enter without a mask.** You will not be allowed to bring additional people with you for your appointment.

10. If you feel sick, have a fever, feel achy, or have lost your sense of taste or smell, please use common sense and do not come to the Structural Biology Core facility. You will not be charged for a cancelation to keep everyone safe.
11. **The facility is not be open to walk-up users after hours. The facility closes at 5 p.m. during the week and on the weekends** (when director or manager is not present). The machines and surfaces cannot be cleaned between users when staff is not present.
12. We will conduct the following activities by Zoom: experimental consultation, data analysis, troubleshooting, manuscript preparation and figure preparation, and analysis training. Please send a request to the core manager for a Zoom appointment (fmoussae@vcu.edu). These appointments are available to **all** of our users, no restrictions.