

VCU Lipidomics and Metabolomics 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 MCC researchers with NIH funding, and early career researchers. Imminent grant proposal dates or manuscript resubmissions may also be considered. All other internal research follows. New external use will not be approved at this time. All prioritization will be decided by the VLMC scientific director, Dr. Ashley Cowart. If a dispute arises, she will consult 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. To comply with the regulation for R2R of one person per 250 sq ft, certified users are not allowed to run their own samples at this time. Certified users will be allowed as guidelines in subsequent phases permits.
4. All samples must be dropped off at the core according to this protocol: We are setting up a sample drop-off station outside of the main core (Sanger 2-012). Users will drop off their samples here while using all recommended PPE during their time in the building. Sample receipt will be acknowledged immediately by email. **It is of the utmost importance that you schedule your sample drop off with Dr. Jeremy Allegood prior to submission** (Office 804-827-9909 or Cell 404-273-6701). **We are utilizing hybrid schedules to perform sample preparation and analysis within the core, but all data integration and quantitation will occur offsite for the foreseeable future.** Because of this hybrid scheduling, we cannot guarantee the timely acceptance of unscheduled sample submissions.
5. All sample submissions must be accompanied with our updated sample submission form (available at <https://www.massey.vcu.edu/research/cores/lipidomics/>, under the services tab) so that we can prioritize samples within the sample queue in accordance with the current prioritization structure.
6. To comply with social distancing requirements, Drs. Cowart and Allegood or Ms. Kubick will not perform onsite consultation for users. We are available to consult by phone or Zoom, or contact Dr. Cowart (lauren.cowart@vcuhealth.org).
7. Because our secondary space also houses the Seahorse, which has a scheduled user base, users of the Seahorse must wait until we have finished our work within 2-006 before

entering, due to the size of the room. Our work within the room should be routine maintenance or sample loading, which should not take more than 10 minutes on average. You **must** wear a mask and gloves if you are using the Seahorse. **You will not be allowed to enter without a mask.** You will not be allowed to bring additional people with you.

8. 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 VLMC for sample submission. There is no penalty for rescheduling a submission. (This is also in compliance with the VCU daily health attestation)