

Macromolecular Crystallography Laboratory
Instructions for Users
(effective for Phase I research restart 5/20/20)
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The MCL will be available during normal business hours when the University of Oklahoma is open for VPRP-approved Phase I users upon consultation with Dr. Thomas (lmthomas@ou.edu). The health and safety of researchers is the highest priority and the MCL will adhere to all health and safety guidelines from the CDC and OU administration regarding the covid-19 pandemic. Social distancing rules will be enforced and the number of personnel will be limited in the facility to 1 other person besides the facility director working in the MCL due to the distancing rules set by the VPRP Office (no more than 2 people/500 sq ft).

- All users **MUST** put on gloves once they enter the MCL, these should be removed prior to exit and placed in the waste receptacle by the door.
- Wipe work area down with 70% ethanol before **AND** after use. There are spray bottles containing 70% ethanol available for this.
- As an additional precaution, door handles and bench surfaces will be wiped down regularly with 70% ethanol by the facility director.
- Facial masks must be worn at all times.

Consultations with MCL Director Dr. Thomas

Consultations with Dr. Thomas can be done by email, Zoom or in person by appointment. Consultations in person will take place in the laboratory instead of my office or in an area where social distancing requirements can be adhered to.

Crystallization Facility

Macromolecular samples (proteins/nucleic acids or other compounds of interest) can be submitted for crystallization screening as usual. Social distancing will be enforced and all sample containers will be wiped down before being handled.

The Minstrel Imager will be left operating even during a future university shutdown and should be accessible through the web interface.

Optimization screens may be set up normally with the understanding that access to the trays may be limited. Work areas and any instruments/tools must be cleaned and wiped down before and after trays are setup. Only one person can set up trays at a time.

X-ray Diffraction Facility

The X-ray diffraction system and other instruments will be in either in standby mode or fully operational depending on the usage of the instrument. Crystals can be screened and/or data collected as normal. Only one person will be allowed in the X-ray enclosure to observe and mount crystals. All mounting tools and microscopes must be wiped down before and after use.