

CLOSURE OF MEAKINS-CHRISTIE LABORATORIES



Special COVID-19 Related Measures

Mandatory Training for Staff and Trainees

April 7th, 2020 Séverine Audusseau



SPECIAL COVID-19 LABORATORY PROCEDURES



INTRODUCTION

Meakins-Christie Laboratories Closure

- What does it mean?
- Presence in the lab is restricted to people working on **related COVID-19 projects**
- and to **essential technical tasks** (e.g. animal colony maintenance)
- Can I still work in the lab?



SPECIAL COVID-19 LABORATORY PROCEDURES



1- AUTHORIZATION FOR WORKING IN THE LAB

A special permission must be obtained from Dr. Petrof, by your principal investigator and by providing

- Name
- Position
- Reason for requiring access to the lab

Unauthorized people will be denied access



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2- MANDATORY SAFETY TRAINING

Biosafety Training is mandatory for everyone working in the lab!

- Online training is available on PHAC website <https://training-formation.phac-aspc.gc.ca/course/index.php?categoryid=7&browse=courses&perpage=20&page=0>
- Training Certificates must be provided to ri.ehs@muhc.mcgill.ca



Disinfect surfaces around
your home and work.

Wash your hands for at
least 20 seconds.

SPECIAL COVID-19 LABORATORY PROCEDURES



3- PREVENTION MEASURES

- **Keep your hands clean**
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- ✓ Where you cannot wash your hands with soap, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- ✓ Cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm.
- ✓ Avoid touching surfaces people touch often.
- ✓ Use PPE, such as gloves and surgical masks. Safety glasses must be worn on shared microscopes.



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3- PREVENTION MEASURES

- **Keep your environment clean**
- ✓ Define and delimitate individual workspace, avoid sharing of small equipment (pipettes, scissors, box of tips, timers...)
- ✓ Disinfect your workplace: desktop, work surface, phones, keyboard, computer mouse, door knobs.
- ✓ Use a tissue or a paper towel wet with 70% ethanol
- ✓ Use a clean single-use disinfecting cloth (e.g. Lysol)
- ✓ Disinfect shared equipment: work surface, parts of the instruments that are touched to operate the equipment, including the operating buttons, keyboard and the computer mouse. Shared equipment can include pipettes, pens...



IMPORTANT NOTICE - COVID-19

USE OF SHARED EQUIPMENT

MEASURES TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION AND PROMOTE EFFECTIVE DESINFECTION

Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces, especially those that are frequently touched (such as doorknobs, handles, tabletops, etc.) can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The following rules are implemented to prevent potential contamination of shared equipment.

Shared instruments includes:

- qPCR Instruments
- Microscopes (E03.4037 and E03.2370)
- Gel documentation system (E03.4073, E03.2144)
- Flow cytometers (E03.2054)
- SeaHorse Flux Analyzer (E03.4047)
- Plate readers: Tecan M200 (E03.4073), Luminex (E03.4134)

Prevention measures:

The computer keyboards of shared instruments have been disinfected and covered with a plastic protector to prevent contamination and facilitate cleaning.

Applicable to all users of shared equipment:

- 1- Plan your experiment trying to minimize moving from one room to another.
- 2- Prior using a shared equipment, **wash your hands with soap** and warm water for **at least 20sec.**
- 3- **Wear a new pair of gloves**, prior touching any surfaces of the equipment, including the computer.
- 4- **Spray 70% ethanol on a tissue or paper towel and wipe the surfaces:** tabletop, plastic covered keyboard, computer mouse, external surface of the instrument and instrument command buttons.
DO NOT SPRAY LIQUIDS DIRECTLY ON EQUIPMENT OR ON COMPUTERS, USE A WIPE!
- 5- As much as possible and safe, handle biohazard materials with only one of your hand, keeping the other hand clean for operating the equipment.
- 6- Change your glove as needed or as soon as a contamination with biohazard material is suspected.
- 7- When you are done with your experiment, **disinfect all the surfaces with 70% ethanol** as previously.
- 8- Discard you gloves and **wash your hands**.

WASH YOUR HANDS



WEAR GLOVES



DESINFECT SURFACES



LINK:
<https://www.meakinsmcgill.com/2020/04/03/covid-19-special-resp-lab-measures/>



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3- PREVENTION MEASURES



WARNING: RISKS OF EQUIPMENT DAMAGE

- ✗ Do not spray liquids directly on electronic parts such as keyboards, computers, monitors...
- ✗ Monitors screens are fragile on the computer: use a very soft tissue
- ✗ Although bleach is a very efficient disinfectant, it is corrosive!

Do not use bleach on stainless and metal parts neither on equipment (unless specified by manufacturer)

- ✗ Do not wipe the SIP of the cytometers!
- ✗ For microscopes, use only dry lens papers on objectives



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3- PREVENTION MEASURES

- **Keep your distance**
- ✓ No more than two persons at the same time in common equipment rooms
- ✓ No more than one person can work in the alcoves.





4- TEAMUP CALENDARS

- **Equipment TeamUp Calendar**
 - ✓ Must be strictly accurate
 - ✓ Help us with anticipating technical support needs (calibration, verification and training)
 - ✓ Help us with disinfection and maintenance.
- **Special COVID-19 TeamUp Calendar**
 - ✓ Your safety is our priority
 - ✓ Help for anticipating traffic in the lab and respecting social distancing.

Should COVID-19 infection spreads among lab workers, both calendars could also be very useful for tracking disinfection and person in contact with others.



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5- REMINDER: BASIC SAFETY RULES



- **Do not eat or drink in the lab**
- **Wear PPE**
- **Respect Biosafety Containment Level**
- **Respect Biosafety rules for safe transport of samples in between laboratories (e.g. hospital or animal facility to RI)**
- ✓ Double sealed containers is mandatory
- ✓ Use a cart or tray for transport.
- ✓ Do not wear lab coat nor glove in Public Areas (e.g. elevators)
- **Training remains mandatory prior to using equipment**
- ✓ Autoclaves, microtomes, cryostats, ultracentrifuges



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6- INCIDENTS AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

- **Problems with equipment**
 - ✓ Inform Severine ASAP
 - ✓ Info: Type of equipment, Brand, Model, serial number if available, description of the problem.
- **Spills**
 - ✓ Procedure for spills will be sent to you
- **Accident & Incident**
 - ✓ Call 55555



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QUESTIONS ?

STAY SAFE !

**I still haven't decided
where to go for Easter**



**debating between the
bedroom or the living room**