

## Recommendations for operating Core Facilities in a research environment during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic:

### General organizational measures:

- o Put up signs at your doors stating that all touchable surfaces (keyboards, computer mice, eyepieces, focus knobs and the like) are possible means of transmitting SARS-CoV-2. Transmission through the eye (conjunctiva) is considered possible.
- o Limit number of trainings or postpone all trainings
- o Only one user per microscope per session allowed
- o Users show up at the facility only after booking online. To minimize traffic, users do not walk in to see if a microscope is free.
- o Users who have been in risk areas or had contact with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 patients are not allowed to use the facility for 14 days. See RKI web site for current risk areas ([https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html)).
- o Users who are sick are not allowed to use the facility, even if it appears to be only a slight sneeze or cough or the like.
- o Providing shared lab coats by the facility is strongly discouraged. Such lab coats should be removed. Users must bring their own where lab coats are required.
- o Consider to remove all plastic cups from the eye pieces (Augenmuscheln) to ease disinfection.
- o Make processing stations accessible remotely where possible, contact your IT about feasibility and resources
- o Ask software providers for possibilities of free temporary licenses for working at home
- o Consider if air flow in an out of the facility should be increased by building administration.
- o Be aware of current local restrictions and safety measures

### Requested user behavior when entering the facility

- o All users should wear fresh gloves. The gloves have to be disposed off after use. First step: put gloves on, last step: gloves off; disinfection in-between.
- o Do not touch bare surfaces with bare hands. That includes door handles, microscope parts and computer with periphery.
- o Cover keyboards, mice, eyepieces and other touchable surfaces with plastic wrap for household use (Frischhaltefolie) - see attached picture. Cheap products may perform badly, we recommend to use brand products.
- o Wipe the plastic wrap with 70% Ethanol or other recommended disinfectants (see <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/coronavirus-SARS-CoV-2-guidance-environmental-cleaning-non-healthcare-facilities.pdf>) before and after your slot or exchange the plastic wrap before your slot (always use gloves).
- o On eye pieces, use a new piece of plastic wrap for every user. When usage of plastic wrap on the eye pieces is not considered feasible (e.g. long-term observation through the eye pieces), be sure to disinfect the eye pieces before and after use.

- o All users are welcome to bring and wear their own safety glasses for further protection of their eyes against virus transmission
- o Do not start any overnight experiments which could become problematic if the campus should be closed the next morning. Contact the Core Facility staff to discuss overnight experiments.

See the following links for further information on Sars-CoV-2 (in German)

- o [https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/nCoV.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/nCoV.html)
- o [https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges\\_Coronavirus/Hygiene.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Hygiene.html)

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