COVID-19 Information

ⓘ This page details the nanoFAB's response to combat transmission of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Please visit the University of Alberta COVID-19 Information page for the most recent campus-wide information.

The situation is evolving quickly—please check this page frequently for any updates.

Introduction

To support ongoing academic and industrial work, the nanoFAB will remain open to users so long as regular University operations continue. However, as a shared facility, the nanoFAB is instituting a number of additional policies to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission among users, in accordance with best-practice guidelines published by the University of Alberta, the Government of Alberta, and the Government of Canada.

All users must review the policies on this page and follow them when using the nanoFAB.

Additional measures may need to be put in place as the situation evolves—we appreciate your patience as we navigate this unprecedented scenario.

CampusReady pass

The University of Alberta's COVID-19 Vaccination Directive is in force as of 28 Sep 2021. To support the directive, the CampusReady pass has been implemented for all staff, students, and visitors. As the nanoFAB is an on-campus service provider, all nanoFAB users are required to have a valid CampusReady pass before doing any on-site work.

Facility-wide policies

⊘ **Masks are required in all common areas of ECERF, including the nanoFAB.   The nanoFAB only provides masks for working in the cleanroom and 10k areas.**

If you are feeling unwell, do not enter the nanoFAB: stay at home until you are well.

- Social distancing protocols are in effect: as far as possible, maintain a distance of 2 m between people, and avoid all physical contact.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; in either case, **disinfect for at least 20 s**.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available outside every lab: please disinfect your hands prior to entering.
- Regular disinfecting of high touch common areas and equipment
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Use a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw it in a garbage bin lined with a plastic bag.
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands immediately after coughing and/or sneezing.

Maximum occupancy limits

To facilitate social distancing while working in nanoFAB lab spaces, the following maximum occupancy limits are in effect:

Building	Room	Description	Maximum occupancy
ECERF	W1-040	Characterization Lab	16
	W1-040A	XRD Room	5
	W1-060A	Sigma FESEM	**2 ***
	W1-060B	He Ion Microscope	**2 ***
	W1-060	10k Deposition area	12
	W1-062	Cleanroom	32
	W1-062 gowning	Gowning room	4
	W1-062A	RAITH150 Two	2
	W1-062B	Heidelberg MLA150	3
CMEB	L1-113	XPS/SIMS/Auger Lab	19
	L2-112	AFM Lab	4
	L2-120	Sample Prep Lab	4
	L2-121	TEM Prep Lab	**2 ***
	L2-121A	TEM Control Room	**2 ***

* **Requires the use of PPE**

Location-specific policies

In addition to the facility-wide policies described above, the following policies apply to specific locations within the nanoFAB.

Cleanroom

- **New gowning procedure**
    - Sanitize hands immediately prior to entering the gowning area. A hand sanitizer dispenser is located opposite the gowning door, next to the white board.
    - When entering the gowning room, users should immediately don the following, in this order:
        1. Gloves
        2. Face mask: remove the mask you are wearing and don a fresh mask
        3. Bouffant cap
    - When leaving the cleanroom, remove all cleanroom garments except for gloves, use gloved hands to open the cleanroom door, and discard gloves in garbage bin outside the cleanroom.
- Be extra diligent about cleaning items with IPA when entering the gowning areas. This includes:
    - Personal items (e.g., phones, pens, notebooks, specimen holders)
    - Communal items such as safety goggles
- Change gloves immediately if you touch your face, cough, or sneeze.
- If you cough at a work station, wipe down the table surface with IPA, but to prevent damage to equipment, do not wipe down tool PCs or equipment with IPA or any other disinfectant.

10k area

- Be extra diligent about cleaning items with IPA when entering the gowning areas. This includes:
    - Personal items (e.g., phones, pens, notebooks, specimen holders)
    - Communal items such as safety goggles
- Standard gowning procedures still apply: lab coat, bouffant cap, gloves, safety goggles, face mask
- Change gloves immediately if you touch your face, cough, or sneeze.
- If you cough at a work station, wipe down the table surface with IPA, but to prevent damage to equipment, do not wipe down tool PCs or equipment with IPA or any other disinfectant.

Characterization lab (ECERF W1-040)

- Users must wear their own face masks; the nanoFAB does not supply face masks for users in this lab space.
- Users must don gloves immediately upon entering the lab, wearing them for the duration of their work. Change gloves immediately if you touch your face, cough, or sneeze.
- Do not wipe down any equipment, including PC keyboards or mice, with IPA or any other disinfectant.

FESEM and HIM rooms (ECERF W1-060A, W1-060B)

- Users must wear their own face masks; the nanoFAB does not supply face masks for users in this lab space.
- Users must don gloves immediately upon entering the lab, wearing them for the duration of their work. Change gloves immediately if you touch your face, cough, or sneeze.
- Do not wipe down any equipment, including PC keyboards or mice, with IPA or any other disinfectant.

CME labs

- Users must wear their own face masks; the nanoFAB does not supply face masks for users in this lab space.
- Users must don gloves immediately upon entering the lab, wearing them for the duration of their work. Change gloves immediately if you touch your face, cough, or sneeze.
- Do not wipe down any equipment, including PC keyboards or mice, with IPA or any other disinfectant.

Computational area (ECERF W1-028)

- Users must wear their own face masks; the nanoFAB does not supply face masks for users in this lab space.
- Food and drink are no longer permitted in the computational area.
- Users are required to wipe down keyboards, mice, and tables before and after use with IPA or disinfectant wipes.
    - A spray bottle of IPA and cleanroom wipes and/or disinfectant wipes are provided for this purpose.
        - If using IPA from spray bottle, use it to lightly wet the cleanroom wipe, then use the moistened wipe to wipe down equipment and surfaces.
        - *Do not spray IPA or any other liquid onto equipment.*
    - Dispose of wipes in provided red organics waste pail.
- If you cough at a work station, immediately wipe down the work surface with IPA or a disinfectant wipe.

Common meeting area (ECERF W1-028)

- Users must wear their own face masks; the nanoFAB does not supply face masks for users in this lab space.
- Food and drink are permitted in the common area of W1-028 (general-use tables and couches).
- Users are required to wipe down work surfaces before and after use with IPA or disinfectant wipes.

- A spray bottle of IPA and cleanroom wipes and/or disinfectant wipes are provided for this purpose.
- Dispose of wipes in provided garbage can.
- If you cough at a work station, immediately wipe down the work surface with IPA or a disinfectant wipe.