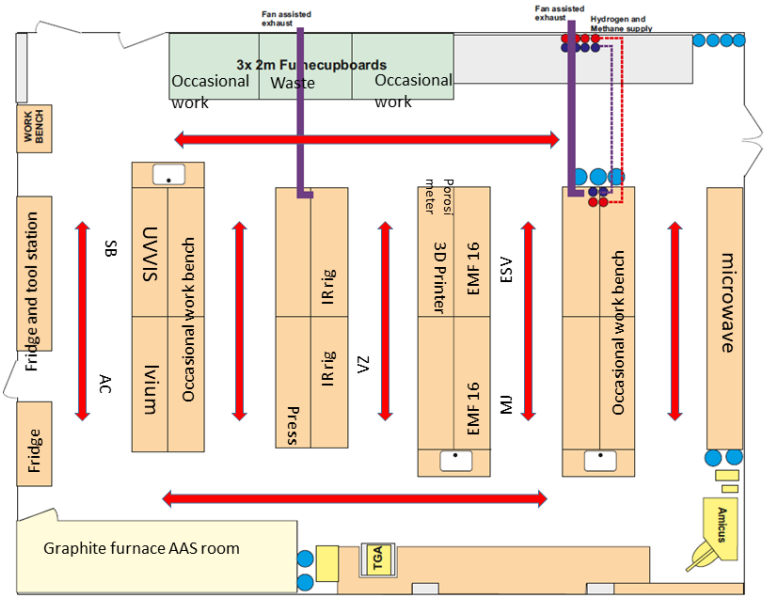
COVID-19 – Return to Research in Birchall Centre Laboratory



There are 5 people to use the Lab on daily basis (MJ, ESV, VZ, AC, SB). They each have their own assigned bench space with the instrument that they will use. There are a few instruments (e.g. 3D printer, microwave, Press, TGA) as well as 2 fume hoods for communal use. Each bench has one set of open top and analytical balance allowing easy access without asking anyone to move.

Users can access their bench spaces directly by travelling up the corridor between benches, negating the need to pass anyone. The access corridors indicated by red arrows will be two way, but with only one person allowed to travel on them at any time. This is practical owing to the low numbers of researchers in the laboratory and the excellent line of sight over the benches. Markings will be placed on the floor of the vertical corridors designating waiting zones whilst someone is in the transit corridor.

Equipment, fume hoods, and fridges that are used on occasional basis have easy access but owing to the time limited nature of their use will not require a permanent blocking of the corridor.

Solvents are currently stored in appropriate cupboards underneath the fume hoods that will be empty. This plan allows easy, safe access to them without asking anyone to move.

Furnace room expected to be used on a very irregular basis. Only one person at a time will be allowed in the room. Furnace controls will be cleaned in line with other communal instruments.

Line of sight into the room is good, so it will be easy to monitor.

Occasional researchers

Researchers accessing the lab on occasional basis will be able to use benches and/or fume hoods dedicated for occasional use. They can travel up the dedicated corridors and occupy the space without asking anyone to move. There is space for up to 4 researcher using the lab

on occasional base. They should contact AR or VZ a day before using the lab so that disinfecting the benches can take place and gloves can be supplied. The researchers will be responsible for their own lab coats, safety specs and other required PPE.

General Considerations

An enhanced cleaning process for cleaning the communal equipment will be implemented, so that they are cleaned down with EtOH/iPrOH after each use.

Each researcher will be issued with 3 lab coats: 1 to be worn, 1 clean in case of emergencies and 1 being laundered. Lab coats will be stored in the researcher's locker and not on hooks in the laboratory. Lab coats will be laundered on a weekly basis.

Each researcher will have a dedicated box of gloves, to avoid the need to have multiple people touch a single cardboard box with their bare hands.

Taps, emergency shower etc will all require flushing through before research can commence.

AR chemicals are stored in the cupboards under EMF16 stations VZ chemicals are stored under IR rig stations. Markings will be placed in the vertical corridors for users to step back to if someone requires access to the chemical storage under the stations.

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Each researcher will have a dedicated box of gloves, to avoid the need to have multiple people touch a single cardboard box with their bare hands.

Taps, emergency shower etc will all require flushing through before research can commence.

Due to the low number of researchers in the lab on daily basis, and due to the fact that each person has their own dedicated lab space that is within $2m^2$ there is no need for arranging shift pattern and/or academic supervision.

Students

The PhD students and postdocs will not have access to their office. They will each be supplied with 3 lockers: 1 for their personal belongings, 1 for their clean lab coat and 1 for their dirty lab coat. The expectation is that if they are in the building then they are working in the lab – analysis and write up is to be performed remotely. If an experiment has a short break period then the student will either remain in the laboratory preparing for the next step/reading papers or exit the LJB.

Preparative Work

Benches are in good order but may need through disinfecting while the instruments do not need moving. Floor marking has to be done and the equipment might need disinfecting prior the first use. Sufficient PPE will need to be supplied.

Technical Support

There are options for the way in which technical support is managed, which are detailed below:

Stores/Waste Solvent

Two trolley system.

1) Technician loads trolley with requested stores consumables (inc. solvent and chemicals) and delivers to prep room (access through 1.80). Exchanges trolley for waste loaded up by researchers. Technician empties waste bottles into skip, empties solvent and then has trolley ready for next delivery day.

Liquid Nitrogen/Gas cylinders

1) Technician refills liquid nitrogen dewar and places in 1.60 for local dispensing. Technician changes gas cylinders.