NSLS-II Status Summary for Users
November 8, 2021

Current Status
Brookhaven Lab is currently operating in Phase 2, “Expansion of Limited Operations,” which began on July 6, 2020. The most up-to-date details on the Lab’s status can be found on the Laboratory's Resumption of Operations website.

New BNL vaccination policy
Beginning November 17, 2021, all guests accessing the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) site are required to provide proof of vaccination or proof of exemption from the vaccine requirement from your home institution. Those with proof of exemption will also be required to provide proof of weekly COVID-19 testing while on site. This is a new requirement under Brookhaven Science Associates’ prime contract.

All guests are required to arrive at the Lab site Monday through Friday (unless a holiday) between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. If you MUST arrive outside of these hours, requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, and you must contact Kathleen Nasta at nasta@bnl.gov or 631-344-7114 at least one week prior to your arrival. Please ensure you arrive early enough to allow adequate time for this process prior to the start of your research for the day.

To remain responsive to the workplace safety needs of all on-site personnel during the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, a vaccination validation system has been established for employees, users, guests and visitors. This system is intended to eliminate ambiguity, and to reduce concerns associated with compliance to the CDC and DOE guidelines. This practice involves the issuance of a special blue “validated” badge and lanyard for vaccinated individuals that must be worn on site. The validation process will only document that the individual has shown proof of vaccination. Vaccination details will not be retained in any BNL data system.

For more details on the BNL vaccination policy and the vaccination validation process, please see the Vaccination Requirements for Laboratory Guests.

BNL face covering policy
In accordance with updated guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Energy, face coverings and other efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are now again required for everyone on-site at Brookhaven National Laboratory—regardless of vaccination status. Please refer to the Laboratory's COVID-19 web page on the use of face coverings for more details.

Multifactor Authentication for access to all NSLS-II computers
As part of the ongoing effort to maintain a secure computer environment at BNL, access to all NSLS-II computers and services will soon require two factor authentication (2FA). To log onto a NSLS-II system, you will need to use both your password and respond to a “push” from BNLs’ DUO service.

Two Factor Authentication greatly enhances security as it relies not only on something you know (your password) but also something you have (your smartphone). Should one of these be compromised, such
as someone guessing your password, an attacker cannot gain access as they don’t have the other factor. In a recent study, over 80 percent of hacking-related data breaches were caused by stolen or weak passwords. While we realize the use of DUO adds an extra step, this is necessary to greatly improve the cyber security of the NSLS-II.

Please refer to the BNL DUO website for instructions on how to install and use DUO with your BNL Domain account if you have not done so already. These changes will be implemented in the upcoming shutdown. If you have questions, please contact Stuart Wilkins.

September – December (2021-3) operations cycle
User operations for the September – December (2021-3) cycle will be like the 2021-2 cycle. The primary focus is the allocation of highly rated remote experiments. Up to 10 users per beamline will be permitted on-site during the 2021-3 cycle. Additional on-site users are at the discretion of the facility management. Further details on allocation guidance and on-site user access for the 2021-3 cycle can be found on the NSLS-II COVID-19 User Resources site.

User appointments and training
A reminder that all users participating in experiments at NSLS-II must have a guest appointment and complete required training. This includes on-site users, remote users, and users mailing samples to beamline staff. New users or users with expiring appointments should register online at the BNL Guest User Visitor (GUV) website. For remote users, Cybersecurity and the Computer Use Agreement are the only two online training modules required. You can refer to the NSLS-II User Guide for details and access to all training modules.

Travel and arrival guidance for on-site users
On-site users must follow all BNL, New York State, and Federal travel guidelines. Travel guidelines, including the list of countries where travel to the US is prohibited, can be found on the CDC website. For the first visit every cycle, on-site users must arrive at BNL during normal business hours and check in at the Occupational Medical Clinic (OMC) in Bldg 490 and Guest, User, Visitor (GUV) Center in Bldg 400. Any user not approved to be on-site will be asked to leave BNL.

On-site user attire
Visitors to the NSLS-II experimental floor must wear long pants/skirts and flat, closed-toe shoes when on the experimental floor. Access will be restricted if proper attire is not worn.

ORCID iD
NSLS-II is now requiring users to enter their ORCID iD persistent digital identifier as part of the guest registration process. If you do not already have an ORCID iD, please sign up for one by going to the ORCID website.