

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Users,

We hope you and your relatives are doing well.

Following the French government's announcements, on March 18th, new rules to limit the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic (especially restrictions in 16 departments, including those in Ile-de-France) will come into force on March 19th at midnight.

After analysis of these new rules, SOLEIL can maintain the continuity of the users' schedule, in compliance with health instructions and taking into account the situation of each beamline and the operational teams of the ring.

Our priority, as previously, is to preserve the health of our staff, users and sub-contractors; at the same time as assuring user operations (academic and industrial). To date, the situation is well controlled and no contamination on site has been noted since the resumption of the activity last May 2020. Analysis of site wastewater also shows no contamination.

Users can continue to visit SOLEIL, as long as their travel rules and their employer allow them.

Inter-regional business travel is also permitted.

Except for the [countries listed](#) on the website of the Ministère des Affaires étrangères, users from countries outside the European Union can no longer come to SOLEIL due to the closure of the borders.

Users from a European Union country will be required to "submit the result of a biological virological screening test (RT-PCR) that is not found to be COVID-19 contaminated 72 hours prior to departure" to enter the national territory.

Conditions to enter the French territory may vary depending on the date of your travel. Please contact the French Embassy, in your country, to organise your visit to SOLEIL or on the website of [Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères](#).

Likewise, for your return, special conditions may be imposed. Consequently, we recommend you to check with the authorities in your country of origin for the return conditions on the date of your trip.

For those who cannot travel, a limited number of projects can still be carried out remotely on certain beamlines (at the discretion of the responsible of the beamline).

This condition, as well as the strict sanitary measures that we implement at SOLEIL, allow to avoid as much as possible any spread of the disease, without resorting to the recommended 7-day isolation period. **Users are nevertheless encouraged not to leave SOLEIL site for the duration of their experimental project.**

During, beamtime period, SOLEIL canteen remains open ([see opening schedule](#)), but with greatly reduced capacity (currently 49 diners). The rule of 4 diners per table remains in force.

In order to streamline the access to the dining room, we remind you that it is imperative not to linger at the table after your meal. The highest attendance window at the restaurant is 11:45 – 12:30, with a significant peak between 11:45 and 12:00. To avoid a long wait at the entrance, think about postponing your meal to later slots.

The guest house also remains open.

At SOLEIL, to preserve the health of everybody, the application of protective measures must be strictly observed.

The necessary information is available in the brochure distributed to users when they arrive on SOLEIL site.

A specific chapter on safety measures at SOLEIL in relation to COVID-19 has been included in the safety training since beginning of June 2020. Before entering SOLEIL site, all users are required to complete safety training, even if the last training was less than a year ago.

You have also to fill in and sign a declaration of honor form to certify that you have not been in contact with a Covid-19 confirmed case, over the last 7 days.

The number of people on the beamline is limited only by the rules of distancing and precaution. If more than 4 visits are declared in any one session, SOLEIL Users' Office will ask the Main Proposer to provide a schedule of users' presence, during the experiment, to ensure that this precautionary principle is respected and that the experiment is carried out in good conditions (installation of equipment, day or night crews, etc.).

There will be no additional constraints on the safety of experiments, but **we ask that the formalities for the red projects be organized very early (at least 3 weeks) before the start of the experiment.**

If you bring equipment to SOLEIL with you, it must be adequately cleaned before it will be allowed on the SOLEIL site.

Cleaning of the equipment invokes the responsibility of your institute. You will be required to sign a declaration to this effect prior to the start of your experiment at SOLEIL.

As the situation is constantly evolving, we may have to update our decisions and we will continue to inform you of any further evolutions.

Thank you for your collaboration.

SOLEIL Management