

Faculty, staff and students can only visit the observatory in conjunction with classes and observatory development/maintenance, subject to restrictions that will persist for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Groups associated with regular AST classes may visit with instructor approval; other groups should seek department approval. Regrettably, we cannot accommodate non-UR visitors. All visitors must abide by the following rules.

1. All in attendance must obey all University-mandated COVID-19 protocols, including entering their data in Dr. ChatBot on the day of the visit, **wearing face coverings at all times, sanitizing hands and high-touch surfaces frequently, and practicing social distancing to the greatest extent possible**. No one who has an internal temperature over 100.4 F, or who has been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days, is allowed on observatory grounds.
2. The visiting group must also peroxide-wipe all doorknobs, handrails, light switches, keyboards, mice, focus adjustment knobs, and eyepieces, as well as the lock and gate, on their way out. When more than one visitor is present, and they take turns using equipment, they must peroxide-wipe equipment when switching users: keyboards, switches, mice, focus-adjustment knobs, and eyepiece eyecups (avoiding the lenses) They will find peroxide wipes in the telescope control room. We forbid the use of bleach wipes on the computers or telescope equipment.
3. Each user of the telescope who prefers to use paper copies of the telescope/camera cookbooks must bring their own: no sharing allowed. The online versions are accessible electronically within the dome. We strongly encourage observers to use these online versions, on their personal electronic devices. (We forbid the sharing of those as well.)
4. No one may enter the Gannett House except for the site supervisor. No overnight stays on the grounds are allowed for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. No food or drink allowed. Sorry. (This is the rule in all UR classrooms, labs and studios.)
6. The limit on the size of groups allowed to visit is set by the University guideline of 40 square feet of floor space per person in enclosed spaces. This implies a maximum of six people at a time on the dome floor, two at a time in the telescope control room, and two at a time in the entry way except when passing through.
7. Since observing normally requires the dome floor to be devoid of people, and since no more than two can be in the telescope control room, we forbid in-person observing parties larger than four people. For use by a party larger than two, a chair or two may be moved to the entry way from the control room, and moved back when the party leaves. (The fire marshal forbids leaving furniture in the entry way.)
8. All University COVID-19 protocols apply also for travelling to Mees. Given the essential impossibility of following those protocols in ordinary cars, we strongly discourage ride sharing except by those in the same "quarantine bubble," and forbid ride sharing with the instructors. Those who cannot drive themselves to Mees should consider remote attendance, as described below.
9. Larger numbers of socially-distanced observers can be accommodated remotely, using the workstation and fast internet connection of the undergraduate astronomy lab, 203H B&L. Such observers should consider mirroring the workstation's display to the large wall-mounted display, the better to maintain distance from those not currently at the keyboard. Observers in 203H B&L must also abide by items 1 and 2 above. They must peroxide-wipe keyboards and mice, and any other high-touch surfaces, when users change, and at the end of observations. Peroxide wipes are available in 203H B&L for this purpose.
10. The storage room 203I B&L is off limits to all but the instructors.