Negative staining protocol
Integrated Microscopy Facility
Danforth Plant Science Center

1. Mount grid for staining by touching its edge on a piece of double sticky tape adhered to a glass slide, so that the grid is suspended in air.
2. Apply a small drop of suspension (~8 µl) and let it sit for about five minutes, depending on the concentration of particles in the suspension.
3. Blot the edge of the grid with filter paper.
4. Add ~5 µl drop of uranyl acetate negative stain to the grid, incubate ~2 minutes, and blot as before. We use a 7% UAc stock, but 2% works fine. If the stain is too dense then the grids can be rinsed after the original stain with a ~10x dilution of the UAc, blotting dry immediately.