The multidimensional scaling (MDS) plots the Euclidian distances between samples with the x and y axis representing the sample distances between samples of read counts normalized by depth but not covariates. Each row of plots represents dimension 1 to 5 respectively (represented by the x-axis) and shown with the combination of the other dimensions on the y-axis. Samples are colored for participants classified as either using alcohol or not, as depicted in the legend. There is no clear separation based on participant alcohol use.