

MINIMUM COVID-19 EXPOSURE CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR ESSENTIAL UF BOATING ACTIVITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

7/21/20

This document describes the exposure control guidelines for essential boat operations during the COVID-19 PANDEMIC. The following are considered minimum requirements for UF boating operations.

Modifications of these guidelines may be required by UF Environmental Health and Safety and the Boating Safety Officer (BSO) based upon current community public health situation, or further guidance from UF or the State of FL.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Approved essential activities should make every effort to mitigate transmission as outlined by the current CDC, FL-State, & DAN recommendations plus the guidelines noted below:

- All boating operations shall be conducted with the consideration that any member of the operations is potentially asymptomatic, infected and contagious.
- Each team member should be asymptomatic for at least 2 weeks prior to field day and will not participate should they feel ill or has reasonable cause to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Boat personnel must be kept to a minimum.
- Before each field day the PI will review with the team: the plan, proper PPE use, the current CDC recommendations and any general concern for safety associated with the field operation.
- During all aspects of the operation, adequate interpersonal distancing of 6' or greater should be maintained. Due to the size of the vessel and/or nature of the work, interpersonal distances of 6' or greater can be difficult to maintain, therefore face coverings are required to be worn while on the boat.
- Proper PPE procedures and sanitizing must also be practiced during use of any shared equipment: VHF radio, GPS, handrails, sampling equipment, etc.
- The PI of the project is to ensure all team members have the appropriate PPE with appropriate training and they are being used correctly.
- Vehicle sizing must be also be planned to allow adequate social distancing and personnel driving in separate vehicles may be required.
- Additional protective measures may be required anytime the current social distancing and/or the use of face coverings, are difficult to maintain.

COVID Specific Boating Safety Plan

A COVID specific safety plan will be developed to address virus transmission concerns. This safety plan will be specific to the nature of the proposed work but should address at a minimum:

- Identification of Captain and Crew
- Launching/Retrieval Location and Procedures
- Social Distancing Protocols
- PPE
- MOB and Rescue Procedures
- Boat/Equipment Disinfection Protocols (*see UF Boating Guidelines for Boat and Boat Specific Equipment Cleaning/Disinfection)