

# **FIO Reactivation of Research and Educational Activities Post-COVID19 Crisis**

*Revised October 2020*

## **FIO Operations: Keys Marine Laboratory Phased Reopening Guidelines Summary**

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This is a summarized guideline meant to outline the phased operation of Keys Marine Laboratory research activities during the Florida Governor's phased plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions and are supplementary to the FIO Operational Guidelines published in March 2020. The Infection Control Advisory Committee (ICAC) will advise FIO on matters relating to maintaining a safe working environment through each phase of operations.

FIO is committed to providing our staff and members of the science party with a safe and healthy environment. The guidelines provided herein will, with your cooperation and participation greatly enhance our ability to complete critical research and student instructional activities safely.

### **General responsibilities of all FIO staff, visiting scientists and students:**

- Anyone visiting party member with a newly diagnosed COVID infection **MUST** report this to FIO management and the ICAC within 24 hours to facilitate timely contact tracing within FIO.
- Wear a cloth face covering or medical style mask while onboard and on campus to help prevent viral transmission.
- Adhere to social distancing to the greatest extent possible – 6 foot minimum enforced by FIO/KML personnel.
- Adhere to CDC recommended hygiene practices – wash hands hourly or use hand sanitizer hourly, avoid touching face, practice respiratory etiquette, thoroughly clean toilet area after use.
- Stay home when sick, or if exposed to COVID-19 (COVID + household member), or if diagnosed with COVID-19 by Doctor or PCR test. Under no circumstances should a research activity be undertaken with the possibility of a SARS-CoV-2 patient. If symptoms of COVID -19 develop the activity will be terminated.
- Each member of the research activity shall assist and play an active role with the cleaning/safety team to support increased environmental disinfection and monitor for soiled areas that require cleaning.
- Each member of the research activity shall enforce the use of facial coverings and social distancing guidelines.

## **FIO at Keys Marine Laboratory:**

The Keys Marine Laboratory (KML) has been closed under ‘safer at home’ directives, since 13 March 2020, to all visiting research and education groups. KML staff implemented rotating schedules to maintain this FIO asset while minimizing staff contact, with the remainder of staff working from home.

Monroe County was closed to all visitors 20 March 2020, including barricades and check points on US 1. Effective 01 June 2020, Monroe County was reopened to visitors. Effective 17 June 2020, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners voted to make facial coverings mandatory throughout Monroe County. Facial coverings over the nose and mouth must be worn in all Florida Keys business establishments and other public settings where there is a roof overhead. The ordinance applies to employees and customers. Keys Marine Laboratory will stay informed of changes in local directives through Monroe County Emergency Management.

Below is a summary of the **FIO Operations Phased Reopening Plan** and guiding principles. KML was approved to begin Phase 2 operations on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Transition from one phase to the next will be determined by the FIO Infection Control Advisory Committee (ICAC) and dependent on incidence and prevalence of COVID-19 cases in Monroe County.

### **Phase I: Resumption of Limited Field Operations** (10 July 2020)

Resumption of core services with extensive protective measures still in place while continuing to limit exposure of returning employees and reduce community transmission.

#### **Mission or Activity Selection**

- Research activities only
  - deemed essential & time sensitive.
  - Team limited to five (5) people.
  - May include graduate student as part of the research team.
  - No education-oriented courses.

#### **Health Screening, including Daily Access**

- COVID viral testing (RT-PCR) required seven (7) days prior to arrival
- Health Status Survey completed 24-hours prior to arrival
- No access to KML property without prior approval
- Twice daily temperature & health status checks – logged by KML staff
- Daily Access groups
  - Call or Text KML staff prior to arrival each day

## **Personal Protective Equipment**

- Masks or face coverings required to be worn properly
  - when indoors or in enclosed spaces
  - when outdoors and proper social distancing cannot be maintained
- Social distancing – six (6) feet must be maintained between all individuals

## **Dormitories** - capacity will be limited

- refer to Dormitory Capacity Chart
- One team per common kitchen unit

## **Common areas and shared spaces** (Dry Labs, Classroom, Offices, etc.)

- Gatherings of no more than five (5) people
- limited capacity
  - refer to Field Lab Capacity Chart

## **Cleaning**

- Each group will be responsible for maintaining disinfection of their housing unit while on site
- Disinfectant & hand sanitizing stations available throughout the facility
- Disinfect bathrooms after each use
- Disinfect all Common Use Areas twice daily
- Disinfect high touch surfaces frequently

## **Vessels and Scientific Diving**

- Vessels - Limited capacity
  - Refer to Vessel Capacity chart
- Diving
  - If they have been tested COVID-positive must submit an updated and approved diving medical evaluation
  - Will not be permitted if they have a fever or have had any of the COVID symptoms in the last 14 days
  - Handle & disinfect your own gear, especially regulators & masks
  - Mask or facial coverings worn while filling SCUBA cylinders
    - Disinfect fill whips & tanks yokes

## **Sickness while at KML**

- Report to PI and KML staff immediately
- If symptoms of COVID -19 develop at any time while at KML, all activities will be terminated
- Follow direction provided by USF Covid-19 Task Force
  - Isolate sick person(s)
- If confirmed, KML facility will be closed
  - Quarantine/self-isolate all personnel for 14-days.

- Send visiting groups home to self-quarantine where possible, otherwise follow the local health official guidelines.

**Phase II: Return to Near-Normal Operations with Ongoing Restrictions** 01 October 2020

Protective measures remain in place to limit exposure of returning employees and students and reduce community transmission.

**Mission or Activity Selection**

- Routine research and educational activities will be permitted with caution
  - Team limited to ten (10) people
  - Small education-oriented student courses allowed

**Health Screening, including Daily Access**

- COVID-19 viral testing (RT-PCR) required seven (7) days prior to arrival with proof of negative results (unless full-time Monroe County resident)
- Health Status Survey completed 24-hours prior to arrival
- No access to KML property without prior approval
- Twice daily temperature – logged by KML staff
- Daily Access groups
  - Call or Text KML staff prior to arrival each day

**COVID-19 Illness Contingency Plan** (all groups staying on site)

- Group Leader/PI must submit COVID-19 Illness Contingency Plan for review and approval prior to confirmation of visit (page 2 of Health Status Survey)

**Personal Protective Equipment**

- Refer to current Monroe County Ordinance and USF Campus policies
- Masks or face coverings to be worn properly
  - Required when indoors/enclosed spaces unless required by Monroe County ordinance.
  - When outdoors and proper social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Social distancing – six (6) feet is encouraged between all individuals
- Frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer is recommended

**Dormitories** - capacity will be less limited

- refer to Dormitory Capacity Chart (50%)
  - One team per common kitchen unit

**Common areas and shared spaces** (Dry Labs, Classroom, Offices, etc)

- Gatherings of no more than ten (10) people
- limited capacity
  - refer to Field Lab Capacity Chart

**Cleaning**

- Each group will be responsible for maintaining disinfection of their housing unit while on site

- Disinfectant & hand sanitizing stations available throughout the facility
- Disinfect bathrooms after each use
- Disinfect all Common Use Areas twice daily
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces frequently

### **Vessels and Scientific Diving**

- Vessels - Limited capacity
  - Refer to Vessel Capacity chart
- Diving
  - If a diver has been tested COVID-positive they must submit an updated and approved Diving Medical Evaluation
  - Will not be permitted if they have a fever or have had any of the COVID symptoms in the last 14 days
  - Handle & disinfect your own gear, especially regulators & masks
  - Mask or facial coverings worn while filling SCUBA cylinders
    - Disinfect fill whips & tanks yokes

### **Suspected COVID-19 Illness at KML**

- Report to Group Leader/PI and KML staff immediately
- All group activities will be terminated
- Follow direction provided by USF COVID-19 Task Force
  - Isolate sick person(s)
- Activate your COVID-19 Illness Contingency Plan
- The group will be sent home to self-quarantine
- FIO/KML Leadership & ICAC will determine what other visiting groups may also be required to leave and self-quarantine at home, based on inter-group contact.
- KML Staff testing and/or self-quarantine based on contact with the group or person of concern
- Possible closure of KML and cancellation of pending groups

### **Phase III: Resumption of All Operations with Ongoing Monitoring and Precautions**

Phase III will focus on activities that meet the criteria of phase II with the below changes or based upon FIO risk assessment

#### **Mission or Activity Selection**

- Routine research and educational activities will be permitted with caution
- Foreign travel requires additional risk assessment by FIO Director

#### **Health Screening, including Daily Access**

- COVID viral testing RT-PCR) may still be required seven (7) days prior to arrival with proof of negative results (unless full-time Monroe County resident)
- Health Status Survey completed 24-hours prior to arrival

- No access to KML property without prior approval
- Twice daily temperature & health status checks
- Daily Access groups

- Call or Text KML staff prior to arrival each day

#### **COVID-19 Illness Contingency Plan** (all groups staying on site)

- Group leader/PI must submit COVID Illness Contingency Plan for review and approval prior to confirmation of visit (page 2 of Health Status Survey)

#### **Personal Protective Equipment**

- Refer to Monroe County Ordinance & USF Campus policies
- Properly worn masks or face coverings are encouraged (or as directed by USF policies)
  - when indoors or in enclosed spaces.
  - when outdoors and proper social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Social distancing – six (6) feet is encouraged between all individuals
- Frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer is recommended

#### **Onsite at KML field station**

- Dormitories at full capacity
- Continued attention to hand-washing and sanitizing practices
- Common areas and shared spaces (Dry Labs, Classroom, Offices, etc)
  - Social distancing & use of face masks strongly suggested (or as directed by USF policies)

#### **Cleaning**

- Normal contact with routine cleaning procedures in place
- Continued attention to hand-washing and sanitizing practices.
- Each group will be responsible for maintaining cleanliness of their housing unit while on site

#### **Vessels and Scientific Diving**

- Vessels – resume normal operations
- Diving – resume normal operations
  - If you have been tested COVID-positive you must submit an updated and approved diving medical evaluation

#### **Suspected COVID-19 Illness at KML**

- Report to Group Leader/PI and KML staff immediately
- All group activities will be terminated
- Follow direction provided by USF Covid-19 Task Force
  - Isolate sick person(s)
- Follow your COVID-19 Illness Contingency Plan
- The group will be sent home to self-quarantine
- FIO/KML Leadership & ICAC will determine what other groups may also be required to leave and self-quarantine at home, based on inter-group contact.

- KML Staff testing and/or self-quarantine based on contact with the group or person of concern
- Possible closure of KML and cancellation of pending groups

### KML Capacity Considerations

<b>Phase I</b>	Vessels 25' or larger Mandatory 6' social distancing Face masks required
<b>Phase II</b>	Vessels 25' or larger Recommend 6' social distancing Face masks suggested unless mandated by Monroe County
<b>Phase III</b>	All vessels Normal operations with caution

### KML Dormitory capacity:

KML Dormitories (1 group/kitchen)	kitchens	bathrooms	Total capacity	Phase III bed capacity			Phase I	Phase II
				room 1	room 2	room 3	25% capacity	50% capacity
Admin Dorm	1	2	16	8	4	2	4	8
Marina Dorm	1	1.5	8	8	na	na	2	4
Bay House	1	2	6	4	2	na	3	3

### KML Field Lab capacity based on lab bench space:

KLM Labs common space	bench space: 3'/person			Phase III total capacity	Phase I	Phase II
	bench-1	bench-2	bench-3		capacity	capacity
Dry Lab main	8	4	3	15	5	8
Lab 1 walk-thru	6	2	na	8	2	3
Lab 2 wet-dry	3	2	na	5	2	2
Classroom	na	na	na	30	5	10

### KML Vessel capacity for appropriate distancing:

KML vessels (no enclosed cabins)		operating capacity Phase III		Phase I	Phase II
		Snorkeling	diving	capacity	Capacity
30' Island Hopper	Diodon 2 captain	22	10	5	10
25' Parker	Opah 1 captain	8	5	4	6
25' Parker	Mola 1 captain	8	5	4	6
18' Parker	Nari 1 captain	4	2	0	0