

# Florida Institute of Oceanography COVID Reopening Plan Summary

*Revised October 2020*

## **FIO Operations Actions & Expectations**

FIO is committed to providing our staff and members of the science party with a safe and healthy environment. While no measures can be 100% effective, FIO and USF have worked with medical experts within USF and external partners to integrate and adapt guidance from the CDC, UNOLS, the American Bureau of Shipping, and numerous other organizations and research vessel operators into a plan to mitigate COVID-19 risk at all FIO facilities. 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:**

- An internal Infection Control Advisory Committee (ICAC) was established to advise FIO on all matters regarding best practices to conduct safe operations in a COVID-19 or pandemic environment.
- Anyone with a newly diagnosed COVID-19 infection MUST report this to FIO management and the USF Infection Control Advisory Committee (ICAC) within 24 hours to facilitate timely contact tracing within FIO.
- All persons boarding an FIO vessel or arriving at the KML facility will routinely have their temperature taken and health check conducted throughout their stay:
  - 1). Before they initially board the vessel or arrive at the KML facility and
  - 2). Performing multiple daily health checks- at least twice per day. All temperature checks will be recorded.
- Properly 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 personnel (e.g. captain, mate, or site manager).
- 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 each 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 (e.g. voyage, field ops) be undertaken with the possibility of a SARS-CoV-2 patient. If symptoms of COVID -19 develop the activity will be terminated.
- FIO personnel (staff, master, mates, and crew) "At risk" for COVID-19 complications by CDC guidelines (age >65+ or with an underlying condition) and based on each phases risk assessment and in consultation with the Infection Control Advisory Committee

(ICAC). The employee should discuss their underlying risk factors in advance with the ICAC to properly assess risk of participating in field research activity.

- 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.

### **Responsibilities of FIO's Research Vessels at Bayboro:**

- Crew and shore side support staff have been and will routinely be tested for COVID-19.
- Each member of the travelling science party will be tested for COVID-19 prior to travel to St. Petersburg or port of embarkation.
- Health monitoring will take place at embarkation and throughout the cruise.
- The number of hand cleaning stations have been increased throughout each ship.
- U/V sanitizing lights have been added to air conditioner handlers.
- Flow of air throughout each ship has been optimized to inhibit ability of virus to linger.
- Focused sanitizing - hourly cleaning of hand holds and high-volume touch surfaces. As well as frequent cleaning of all common spaces.
- Social distancing areas have been identified in labs, enabled through individual stations and reduced lab capacity.
- Strategic use of traffic patterns (one-way traffic w/ designated exits and entrances) to reduce interactions and cross contamination.
- Provide high quality food service with self-serve meals with staggered mealtimes.
- Cloth mask worn while in the interior of the ship and while on deck if unable to socially distance by six (6) feet while on deck.
- Berthing capacity has been reduced where possible.
- Cruise length and distance away from a U.S. port is limited.
- Developed COVID-19 response plan to mitigate risk if a person develops the virus.

### **Responsibilities of FIO at Keys Marine Laboratory (KML) field station:**

- It is not deemed necessary at this time, for KML support staff be tested for COVID-19. Recommendations may change dependent on incidence and prevalence of COVID-19 in Monroe County.
- Each member of the science party must be RT-PCR viral tested for COVID-19 seven (7) days prior to travel or arrival at KML and have proof of negative results.
  - It has been deemed not necessary, at this time, for visiting researchers residing full-time in Monroe County and requiring Daily Access to KML, to be tested for

COVID-19 prior to access. Recommendations may change dependent on incidence and prevalence of COVID-19 in Monroe County.

- For all KML guests, health monitoring will take place upon arrival at KML and logged twice daily by KML staff (am & pm) throughout the duration of their stay.
- Each person must submit a Health Status Survey 24-hours prior to access to KML
- Each Group Leader/PI staying on site must submit their COVID-19 Illness Contingency Plan for review (found on page 2 of the revised Health Status Survey)
- The number of hand cleaning stations have been increased throughout the KML facility.
- U/V sanitizing lights may be added to air conditioner handlers in areas of higher capacity, based on ICAC recommendations.
- Flow of air throughout each KML building has been optimized to inhibit the ability of viruses to linger.
- Focused sanitizing - hourly cleaning of hand holds and high-volume touch surfaces. As well as frequent cleaning of all common spaces.
- Social distancing areas identified in all labs and common use areas enabled through individual stations and reduced lab capacity.
- Strategic use of traffic patterns as needed (one-way traffic w/ designated exits and entrances) to reduce interactions, cross contamination, and maintain social distancing.
- Visiting groups will have access to their own kitchen within their dorm and provide their own food for meal preparations (one group per kitchen).
- Cloth mask must be worn while indoors (offices, dorms, labs, classroom) and while outdoors, including on KML small vessels and working at seawater tables, if unable to socially distance by six (6) feet.
- Dormitory capacity has been reduced, occupied beds positioned a minimum of six (6) feet apart, or one person per room where possible.
- Developed COVID-19 response plan to mitigate risk if a person develops the virus.