Florida Institute of Oceanography COVID Reopening Plan Summary

Revised January 2022

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 is encouraged.

• 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:**

- Contact us for our current policies regarding COVID-19 testing, masking and social distancing.
- 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.
- 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 is encouraged.
- Berthing capacity has been reduced where possible.
- Developed COVID-19 response plan to mitigate risk if a person develops the virus.

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

- Contact us for our current policies regarding COVID-19 testing, masking and social distancing. 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.
- Masks are strongly encouraged while indoors or closer than 6 ft to others.
- Developed COVID-19 response plan to mitigate risk if a person develops the virus.