

Florida Institute of Oceanography Operational Guidelines during the Coronavirus Alert.

Jim Garey, Acting FIO Director

Notice to Science Party members before arriving to an FIO facility:

Science party members who may have been exposed to Coronavirus, have recently travelled though areas with high incidence of Coronavirus, or have a fever or other symptoms of respiratory illness must **not** come to FIO for cruises or Keys Marine Lab (KML) for lab stays. Anyone who has travelled internationally must inform Cam Ngo (camngo@usf.edu) (ship operations) or Lisa Tipsword (tipsword@keysmarinelab.org) (KML) of where they travelled and the dates of travel. The site at CDC's [COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Public Health Management Decision Making Guidance](#) is a useful resource for determining risk. Those at high or medium risk must not come on board a vessel or enter the KML lab facilities and must let their scientific party leader know as soon as possible of their situation. The party leader must contact Cam Ngo (ship operations) or Lisa Tipsword (KML) immediately.

Should any member of a planned science party have concerns about the trip, they must notify the party leader immediately. No one – faculty, staff, crew, or students – can be compelled to participate in a trip nor must they suffer any negative consequences for failure to participate.

FIO Operations for Ship Crew and KML staff:

1. Should a member of a ship's crew or KML staff develop a fever or other respiratory illness symptoms or fall under medium or high risk according to CDC's [COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Public Health Management Decision Making Guidance](#) he or she must let their supervisor know immediately and self-isolate at home.
2. ***If insufficient ship's crew or KML staff are available to accommodate cruises or KML lab stays, the cruise or KML lab stay shall be cancelled or postponed.***
3. ***Should USF move to shut down face to face courses, all FIO operations with students/scientific operations will stop immediately, vessels will be recalled and FIO staff will work toward rescheduling operations at a later date.***
4. ***In the event of a shutdown, unaffected staff will continue to report to work.***

Ships underway or KML with scientific parties present:

- FIO will post visual alerts (e.g., signs, posters) throughout the vessels/KML and in strategic places onboard (e.g., dormitories, general office space, laboratory, berthing areas, galley, etc) as reminders to practice safe hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
 - FIO will provide supplies for respiratory hygiene including 60%-95% alcohol-based hand sanitizer, gloves and other necessary preventive resources throughout the facilities.
 - Advise crew of the importance of covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or by coughing or sneezing into their sleeve. Dispose used tissues immediately in a disposable container (e.g., plastic bag) or a washable trashcan.
 - Remind crewmembers to [wash](#) their hands often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available,

they can use a hand sanitizer containing 60%-95% alcohol. They should avoid touching their face and eyes.

- Crew/Staff members should wipe down commonly used surfaces (desks, lab benches, tables, handrails, etc) with disinfectant as often as practical.
- Should anyone develop a fever (100.4°F / 38°C or higher), begin to feel feverish, or develop other signs or symptoms of sickness they must notify a supervisor or party leader immediately and self-isolate.
- All other persons on board must avoid close contact with any individual who may be sick.
- The sick individual will don a mask covering mouth and nose when it is absolutely necessary to come in contact with any other individual and when exiting the vessel.
- ***A vessel must contact the Coast Guard and FIO and immediately return to port if a crew member/scientist/student becomes ill as described above during the cruise. If a similar event occurs at KML, the local authorities and FIO must be notified and the person isolated.***
- ***It is advisable to select a cabin/room for isolation purposes ahead of time with a plan to implement isolation if needed.***
 - ***Vessels should minimize distance from port where possible to allow quick return.***
The maximum distance must be discussed with FIO and a decision made in advance depending on how the coronavirus situation develops.
 - Any cases of persons exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must report to the Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) Per 33 CFR 160.216
 - Vessel Master may request assistance from CDC to evaluate or control a possible outbreak as needed. If the ship will not be arriving imminently at a US seaport, CDC quarantine officials will provide guidance to ship officials regarding management and isolation of the sick person or people and recommendations for other passengers and crewmembers.
- Clean and disinfect frequently common areas of the vessel/lab facilities including contaminated areas (isolation berth/dormitories).
- Refill preventive cleaning supplies as necessary.
- For those onshore, all persons with symptoms or suspected of having COVID-19 or other respiratory infection (e.g., fever, cough) should report to the nearest healthcare facility:

In St. Petersburg, the following medical facilities are available:

- Bayfront Health- 701 6th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital- 601 5th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
- St. Anthony's Hospital- 1200 7th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

The following medical facilities closest to the Keys Marine Lab are:

- Mariners Hospital-91500 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier, FL 33070
- Marathon Baptists Health Primary Care Upper Key-5701 Overseas Hwy Suit 17, Marathon, FL 33050
- Lower Keys Medical Center-5900 College Rd, Key West, FL 33040

Additional recommendations from the CDC regarding ships managing suspected coronavirus are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html> and summarized below:

Disembarkation/Reporting

U.S. regulations (see [42 CFR 71.21](#) for the full regulation) require the master of a ship destined for a U.S. port of entry to immediately report to the CDC any illnesses during the trip 15 days prior to arrival. This includes persons who have disembarked or have been removed from the ship due to illness.

A disembarking crewmember or passenger who had influenza like illness/COVID-19 symptoms or who has had a fever within the 24 hours before disembarking the vessel, must don a mask and be referred to local health authorities for management.

Students who have questions can reach out to USF Student Health Services by calling 813 974 2331.

- Notify the master of the vessel immediately
- Stay inside at home or hotel in the city of disembarkation
- Refrain from further travel until at least 24 hours after he or she is free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. Seek medical attention.
- If a crewmember or passenger with influenza like illness is taken to a healthcare facility off the ship, the facility should be informed before arrival.

Vessels must submit a cumulative influenza-like illness report (even if no influenza-like illness cases have occurred) preferably during the final 24 hours of the voyage or as soon as an outbreak is suspected. Guidance to vessels on reporting illnesses to the CDC can be found at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdjnj>. U.S. flagged commercial vessels are also advised to report ill crewmembers in accordance with the requirements of each foreign port called upon.

Reports must *immediately* be made to the [CDC Quarantine Station](#) at or nearest the U.S. port of arrival. If the master cannot reach the CDC Quarantine Station, contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC): 770-488-7100 or the United States Coast Guard and they will notify the appropriate CDC Quarantine Station.

- CDC Miami Quarantine Station has jurisdiction over all ports in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and pre-clearance ports in the Bahamas.

Contact Information:

- 305-526-2910 (24-hour access)
CDC Miami Quarantine Station
Miami International Airport
Terminal D – 3rd Floor
Miami, Florida 33122

International voyages will not be scheduled until after the coronavirus situation has resolved.

Check <https://www.usf.edu/coronavirus/> for additional information and updates.

Resources:

- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Public Health Management Decision Making guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/public-health-management-decision-making.pdf>
- National Institutes of Health: <https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>
- World Health Organization Situation Reports: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>
- International Maritime Health Association guidelines on Reducing Risks from 2019-nCoV: <https://www.imha.net/sites/default/files/2020-01/20200126 CORONA advice shipping comp.pdf>
- USCG Marine Safety Information Bulletin / Novel Corona: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO Documents/5p/MSIB/2020/MSIB-02-20 Novel Coronavirus 2Feb2020.pdf>