

COVID-19 Field Research Safety Protocols for NAACC Field Work

COVID 19 Precautions: Before leaving their home, all team members are required to assess themselves for COVID-19 related symptoms. If a team member discovers that they have any of the symptoms, he or she will stay home and contact their supervisor. No personnel will engage in fieldwork if he or she is sick, regardless of the illness. No Personnel will engage in fieldwork if he or she has had known contact with a COVID19 positive person. Field personnel will follow all state, county, and town issued recommendations for the sites where fieldwork takes place. All team members will have adequate personal protective equipment and sanitation solutions.

Specific provisions for personnel conducting fieldwork

- All field research team members will have been asymptomatic for at least two weeks prior to travel for fieldwork, and will not participate if they feel ill or have reasonable cause to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- All applicable reporting protocols will be followed if a team member, a colleague, housemate, or an immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19. <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/>.
- Personnel will be aware of and follow local public health requirements and state policies regarding COVID-19.
- Before leaving their home, all team members are required to assess themselves for COVID-19 related symptoms. If a team member discovers that they have any of the symptoms, he or she will stay home and contact their supervisor.
- Personnel will maintain reliable communication to receive updates or get assistance related to COVID-19 and changing policies.
- Reliable communication will be maintained between team members, while traveling to and at the field site.
- Personnel will maintain flexibility to alter travel plans at any time, return home, or self-isolate if necessary.
- All team members will have adequate personal protective equipment (e.g., face masks, gloves) and sanitation solutions.
- Personnel will avoid public transportation.
- Personnel will minimize contact with the public.
- Minimize purchases while travel or engaged in fieldwork to avoid or reduce contact with other people.
- Personnel will maintain physical distancing when purchasing fuel, or other required items.
- Use gloves or disinfecting wipes or single-use towels on handles or buttons at service stations before you touch them, and hand sanitizer prior to re-entering your vehicle.
- Team members will keep an individual log of all places they travel (date, times, location) and a description of interactions should they come in contact with any persons.

- Personnel will drive separately to field sites; limit one person per vehicle with the exception of team members from the same household.
- Limit one person per room or tent for overnight trips with the exception of team members from the same household
- Whether fieldwork is done as part of an overnight trip or a single day trip, all personnel will refrain from using public restrooms except in emergencies. Each person involved in field data collection will have their own portable camping toilet so that it will not be necessary to use public restrooms.
- Team members will bring their own food and water to the sites for fieldwork. No food, beverages, utensils or storage containers (i.e. coolers) will be shared between team members.
- Provide designated field equipment to each team member, if possible. Otherwise, disinfect field equipment with 70% isopropyl alcohol at the start and conclusion of each field day, or when equipment is transferred from one person to another during fieldwork.
- All team members will maintain ≥ 6 feet of distance between each other at all times when possible; personnel will not congregate or eat together if that violates physical distancing guidelines.
- Team members will wear masks whenever they are likely to come within 10 feet of each other or another person.
- Clean hands regularly during fieldwork with $\geq 60\%$ alcohol hand sanitizer
- Disinfect the fieldwork vehicle (wipe door handles and everything touched by a person inside the vehicle) with a disinfectant daily, prior to and upon completion of fieldwork If you are not using your own vehicle.