

## R/V APALACHEE Guidelines for COVID19

Effective February 3, 2021

Changing conditions in the COVID-19 pandemic require new policies by State and Local governments regarding workplace safety. This policy was developed to permit continued scientific boating and marine operations at FSU while maintaining the safety of students, staff, and faculty.

**Note: the policy and guidelines below may change depending on University, County, and/or State mandates.**

1. These Guidelines were approved by the FSU Boating Safety Committee and the FSU office of research and will be in effect until further notice.
2. Trip planners must submit a cruise plan ([here](#)) to Matt Edwards to initiate trip reservations. The plan will be reviewed and must be approved by the Office of the Vice President of Research (OVRP) before trips are taken. Therefore, make all reservation's and turn in cruise plans at least one week in advance to allow time for the review process.
3. The online reservation form can be found [here](#). Reservations can be canceled at any time by emailing Durene Gilbert (degilbert@fsu.edu). FSUCML has the right to cancel a reservation at any time due to changing environmental conditions and or safety concerns.
4. No one will be permitted to participate in any boating activity on the R/V APALACHEE if they are feeling ill or if any members of their household have COVID-19 or are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Further, personnel who live with people in high-risk groups for COVID-19 should not participate in boating activities.
5. Two avenues are available to ensure the safety of the students, staff, faculty, and outside personnel wanting to complete research on the R/V APALACHEE. Deviations from these protocols must be addressed in the cruise plan and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
  - A. Research teams may work as a "bubble" in which all team members present documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR-based test within 72 hours of the beginning of the trip. Once formed, the group maintains strict isolation of its members from non-group members. The research team may travel, live, and work as a group while refraining from contact with people outside of their group. **As long as the bubble is maintained, this group is exempt from COVID-19-related restrictions of vessel capacity, distancing, and masks.**
  - B. Research teams that cannot work as a "bubble" must strictly practice these protocols:
    - i. The maximum capacity for the R/V APALACHEE is 10 people aboard the vessel when operating in the "non-bubble" protocol. This capacity includes the captain and crew from FSUCML. For example, if one Captain and one crewmember are operating the ship, no more than 8 scientific crew are permitted onboard as passengers.
    - ii. All team members must provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 7 days of the projected field workday aboard the R/V APALACHEE.
    - iii. Upon arrival to FSUCML, all team members maintain physical distance of six feet whenever possible, wear a mask, and follow the R/V APALACHEE's capacity and

sanitation rules and practice the safe and healthy action detailed in the remainder of these guidelines.

- iv. **No more than one passenger is permitted inside the boat's cabin at a time**, though the Captain can permit additional people inside if deemed necessary for safety considerations. There is a head on the back deck for the scientific crew to use. Information can be shared with the captain over the radio or the P.I. can come to the wheelhouse to communicate with the captain. If the captain permits increased density of individuals inside the ship due to emergency circumstances, everyone must wear masks and socially distance. If possible, this will be limited to one person each in the dry lab, wet lab, kitchen, table and stateroom.
  - v. At the beginning and end of each shift or workday, the scientific crew will clean and sanitize their tools, door handles, high traffic areas and workspaces. The captain and or crew will sanitize the rest of the vessel throughout the day. Hand sanitizer and proper disinfecting products will be available in multiple locations throughout the boat.
  - vi. Each team member will bring their own food and water. Sharing of coolers and food/water is not allowed.
- 6. Highly touched places must be cleaned and sanitized each day with enhanced cleaning and disinfecting products\*\*\*.
  - 7. Whenever possible, use designated entrances, exits, and follow foot traffic patterns. If possible, on and off the vessel (dock area, loading the boat, etc.), everyone should stay at least 6 feet apart and have their mask on.
  - 8. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection products will be available at FSUCML and on the R/V APALACHEE.
  - 9. Upon returning to the dock the P.I. and crew are responsible for properly cleaning and disinfecting their bunk area, kitchen, labs and any tools belonging to the vessel that they used.

\*\*\*Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting products

Clorox bleach

Clorox wipes

Boat soap

Lysol

Brushes

Rags