

## Boating Safety Guidelines for COVID-19

Revised 4/12/2021

Changing conditions in the COVID-19 pandemic require routine review of policies by State and Local governments to assure 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, the FSU office of research, the Office of Human Resources, and the Medical Advisory Committee, and will be in effect and will be updated as conditions require.
2. Before beginning work, a fieldwork plan (appendix 1) must be submitted to Matt Edwards ([medwards5@fsu.edu](mailto:medwards5@fsu.edu)) and be reviewed and approved by The Office of the Vice President of Research (OVPR) before any trips are taken. Fieldwork plans may cover multiple trips of the same type. Therefore, make all reservations and turn in fieldwork plans at least one week in advance to allow for time for the review process.
3. The online reservation form can be found [here](#). Reservations can be canceled by emailing Durene Gilbert ([degilbert@fsu.edu](mailto: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 activities if they are feeling ill, experiencing flu-like symptoms, test positive for COVID-19 and/or are directed to isolate by the Department of Health. Additionally, individuals that have had close contact with anyone that has COVID-19 and are quarantining until released by the Department of Health in accordance with the CDC guidelines cannot participate in any boating activities. Further, personnel who live with people in high-risk groups of COVID-19 should not participate in boating activities.
5. Three avenues are available to ensure the safety of the students, staff, faculty, and outside personnel wanting to complete research on FSUCML vessels.
  - A. Research teams may work as a “bubble” in which all team members are required to submit to COVID-19 testing (PCR) within 7 days in advance of the trip. Team members may voluntarily provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR-based test within 72 hours of the beginning of the trip or confirm they have been cleared by a medical professional. Once formed, the group must refrain from unnecessary risks of exposure including avoiding crowded places and gatherings where it is difficult to maintain social distancing and/or where people are not wearing masks. It is recommended that the research team 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 on vehicle and vessel capacity related to social distancing, but should still wear a face covering when possible.
  - B. Research teams that cannot work as a “bubble” must strictly practice these protocols:
    - i. All team members are required to submit to COVID-19 testing within 7 days in advance of the projected field workday. Members may provide documentation

of a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of the projected field workday or they must confirm that they have been “cleared” by a medical professional.

- ii. Upon arrival to FSUCML, all team members must maintain physical distance of six feet whenever possible, wear a mask, and follow all boating and vehicle capacity and sanitation rules and practice the safe and healthy action detailed in the remainder of these guidelines.
- iii. Each team member will bring their own food and water. Sharing of coolers and food/water is not allowed.

C. Researchers that have been fully vaccinated may choose to provide documentation for receiving the COVID-19 vaccination in order to be exempt from the testing requirement no earlier than 2 weeks after completing the full vaccination series (i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of a two-shot series). However, they are still required to abide by all other COVID-19 protocols, such as mask wearing and social distancing. If an entire team has been fully vaccinated, they are exempt from the COVID-19 vehicle and vessel limits and can operate as if they are in "the bubble". Other social distancing and masks are still mandatory regardless of vaccination status when in the presence of anyone outside of your bubble. Masks must be worn in accordance with current FSU and CDC guidelines.

6. Whenever possible, use designated entrances, exits, and follow foot traffic patterns. If possible, on and off the boat (deck area, launching the boat, etc.), everyone should stay at least 6 feet apart and have their masks on.
7. If individuals are not able to form a “bubble” and need to trailer a vessel away from the marine lab, only one person can do so in the small vehicles\*, but two people are permitted in the larger vehicles\*\* as long as both are wearing a mask.
8. Vehicle steering wheel, handles and highly touched places must be sanitized before and after each trip with cleaning and disinfection products\*\*\*.
9. Occupancy of any of the FSUCML vessels will be limited to one person per six feet of deck length. \*\*\*\*
10. Only an FSUCML approved operator may operate the vessel. A [float plan](#) must be completed and placed on the float plan board attached to the boat shop door or emailed to Matt Edwards ([medwards5@fsu.edu](mailto:medwards5@fsu.edu)).
11. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection products will be available at FSUCML.
12. Upon returning to the dock, the boat operator and crew are responsible for thoroughly washing and disinfecting the boat.
13. Finally, replace boat keys to the black box on the boat shop door to properly be disinfected and stored

\*Small trucks

2011 Toyota Tacoma  
2012 Toyota Tacoma  
2001 Diesel Ford ADP

\*\*Bigger trucks

2019 Diesel Ford F250  
2011 Diesel GMC 2500 HD

**\*\*\*Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting products**

Clorox bleach

Clorox wipes

Boat soap

Lysol

Brushes

Rags

**\*\*\*\* Boating occupancy**

28' PONTOONS- 4 people max

28' Twin Vee- 4 people max

26' CALCUTTA- 4 people max

20' SKEETER- 3 people max

18' POLAR- 3 people max

19' DUSKY- 3 people max

16' CAROLINA SKIFF- 2 people max

63' APALACHEE- 10 people max



Coastal and Marine Laboratory

COVID-19 Field Research Plan

Rev 2/18/21

All field researchers working at or out of the FSU Coastal & Marine Laboratory must submit and receive approval for any field research prior to starting any work.

Contact Details			
Plan Submitted by		Date Submitted	
Principal Investigator			

Project Information				
Project Title (short)				
Does this activity involve scuba?	No		Yes	
Does this activity involve boat use?	No		Yes	

If yes, approved dive plan must be submitted along with signature from DSO on this form.

If yes, then you must submit boat reservation.  
<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/facilities/reservations/>

Describe the project, location, dates or time period, and list the individuals present

Describe the COVID-19 risks inherent in the work

Describe the COVID-19 mitigation efforts for these risks

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Field Research Plan Approval			
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Applicant		Signature	
Program Director 1		Signature	
Program Director 2		Signature	
OVPR		Signature	