

Boating Safety Guidelines for COVID-19

Revised 8/17/2021

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. The online reservation form can be found [here](#). Reservations can be canceled 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.
3. 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 consider the risk of participating in boating activities requiring close contacts with other crew members before submitting a float plan.
4. 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 expected 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. This group is exempt from COVID-19-related restrictions on vehicle and vessel capacity related to social distancing while the bubble is maintained, but should still wear a face covering when in indoor public spaces or working in close quarters.
 - B. Research teams that cannot work as a “bubble” are expected to strictly practice these protocols:
 - i. All team members are expected to complete a COVID-19 test at least 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 confirm that they have been “cleared” by a medical professional.
 - ii. Upon arrival to FSUCML, all team members are expected to maintain physical distance of six feet whenever possible, wear a mask when in indoor public spaces, 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., 2nd dose of a two-shot series). 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 a bubble. Social distancing and the wearing of face masks is still expected in enclosed public spaces regardless of vaccination status when in the presence of anyone outside of your bubble unless others are vaccinated.

5. 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; masks are expected to be worn in enclosed spaces where others are present.
6. If individuals are unable 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.
7. Vehicle steering wheel, handles and highly touched places should be sanitized before and after each trip with cleaning and disinfection products.
8. Occupancy of any of the FSUCML vessels will be limited to one person per six feet of deck length for teams with non-vaccinated personnel. ***
9. Only an FSUCML approved operator may operate the vessel. A [float plan](#) is required before each trip and must be completed and acknowledged by Marine Operations staff or emailed to Matt Edwards (medwards5@fsu.edu) for acknowledgment.
10. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection products will be available at FSUCML.
11. Upon returning to the dock, the boat operator and crew are responsible for thoroughly washing the boat.

*Small trucks

2011 Toyota Tacoma
2012 Toyota Tacoma
2001 Diesel Ford ADP

**Bigger trucks

2019 Diesel Ford F250
2011 Diesel GMC 2500 HD

*** 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