

UWRL COVID-19 or Other Infectious Disease General Field Safety Plan

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When the State of Utah is under any Health Guidance Level other than Low Transmission (<https://coronavirus.utah.gov>) and/or the University is at any stage of its Infectious Disease Response other than level 5 or 4 (“Normal conditions” or “Increased Readiness,” (<https://usu.edu/covid-19/operations/plan-levels>)), the requirements of this section apply.

Travel and use of Vehicles

- Face coverings are required in USU vehicles when riding with others (<https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/staying-healthy/face-coverings>).
- For longer trips, separate vehicles should be used if at all possible.
- To facilitate the use of separate vehicles, if a research project is unable to pay for the extra expenses incurred through use of multiple vehicles, the UWRL will provide funding for the extra vehicle costs by approval of the director.

Fieldwork

1. All fieldwork should be conducted following the field activity and sampling (if any) procedures developed by the PI as part of their standard operations.
2. Field activities should minimize tool and equipment sharing (e.g., one employee operates a field computer, while the other installs sensors and dataloggers).
3. Any member of the field team may veto a field activity plan without penalty if they feel it will be unsafe, and project leaders may not override such disagreements, but continue to work with the field team until all agree on the protocols and feel safe.
4. Field team members should adhere to USU’s guidance on face coverings (<https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/staying-healthy/face-coverings>) and prevention (<https://www.usu.edu/covid-19/staying-healthy/prevention>). This includes wearing masks in shared vehicles and in close proximity, minimizing work closer than six feet apart to the extent possible, and not participating in field activities if currently exhibiting or having experienced COVID symptoms within the last 14 days.
5. PI’s/field team leads are to ensure sufficient hand sanitizing supplies are available in the field.
6. Any additional COVID-19 specific procedures needed for fieldwork should be described in Standard Operating Procedures developed by faculty and research team leads to augment this document and existing (pre-COVID) Field Safety Protocols that are already in place. These individual COVID-19-specific safety plans are available upon request from Steve Barfuss at steve.barfuss@usu.edu.