

## MINIMUM COVID-19 PROJECT APPROVAL AND EXPOSURE CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR ESSENTIAL UCSB RESEARCH BOATING ACTIVITY DURING THE COVID-19 STAND-DOWN

Last updated 4/20/2020

This document describes the project approval process and exposure control guidelines for essential boat operations during the COVID-19 research stand down. The following are considered minimum requirements for local UCSB scientific boating operations (i.e. Santa Barbara Channel region). Modifications of these guidelines may be required by the UCSB Small Boat Operations Committee (SBOC) based upon specific characteristics of the research vessel, planned operations, environmental conditions, current community public health situation, or further guidance from UCSB or the State of CA.

### BOAT PROJECT – UPDATED APPROVAL PROCESS

- Copy of the Office of Research Shutdown Exception letter must be submitted to UCSB's SBOC (via the [Boating Safety Officer](#)) along with a copy of the COVID specific Boating Safety Plan.
- Boating Safety Plan must be approved by the SBOC (or designated sub-committee), any associated committee's (ex. Diving Control Board, or designated sub-committee), support services (ex. EH&S, EEMB Marine Ops, MSI, etc.), and the launchmaster.
- Boat Captain must confirm prior to each dive day:
  - *Launch ramps or hoists are open and available.*
  - *Vessel Assist available for your area of travel.*
  - *Local hospitals are not limited by COVID-19 cases.*

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

Approved essential activities should make every effort to mitigate transmission as outlined by the current [CDC](#), [CA-State](#), & [DAN](#) recommendations plus the guidelines noted below:

- All boating operations shall be conducted with the consideration that any member of the operations is potentially asymptomatic, infected and contagious.
- Each team member should be asymptomatic for at least 2 weeks prior to field day and will not participate should they feel ill or has reasonable cause to believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Boat personnel must be kept to a minimum and must be approved by the PI and department or institute.
- Before each field day the PI will review with the team: the plan, face covering requirements, PPE to be used when necessary, the current CDC recommendations and any general concern for safety associated with the field operation.
- During all aspects of the operation, adequate interpersonal distancing of 6ft or greater must be maintained unless appropriate PPE is employed. Minimum surface interpersonal distances of 6ft or greater can be difficult to effectively maintain while working on UCSB's Research Vessels so **face coverings are required to be worn while on the boat.**
- At a minimum users will comply with the current [CDC recommendations](#) for non-critical workers.
- When social distancing cannot be effectively maintained, isolation of the boat cabin from the back deck should be considered with only one individual being allowed in each "zone" (except for emergency situations).

- Proper sanitizing procedures must be followed after use of any shared equipment: VHF radio, GPS, Hand Rails, Sampling Equipment, etc.
- The Principal Investigator of the project is to ensure all team members have the appropriate face coverings and PPE (when required) with appropriate training and that they are being used correctly.
- Vehicle sizing must be also be planned to allow adequate social distancing and personnel driving in separate vehicles may be required.
- Additional protective measures may be required anytime the universities social distancing requirements are difficult to maintain.

### **COVID Specific Boating Safety Plan**

A COVID specific safety plan will be developed to address virus transmission concerns. This safety plan will be specific to the nature of the proposed work but should address at a minimum:

- Identification of Captain and Crew
- Launching/Retrieval Location and Procedures
- Social Distancing Protocols
- Face Coverings
- PPE (when required)
- MOB and Rescue Procedures
- Boat/Equipment Disinfection Protocols (\*see UCSB Boating Guidelines for Boat and Boat Specific Equipment Cleaning/Disinfection)