

WMRC 2021/2022 COVID-19 Playbook

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Natural Reserve System
university of california



UCLA
Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome and Important Points	3
Executive Summary: Overview of Summer 2021 – Winter 2022 Operations	6
Introduction	8
WMRC Facilities Available for Researchers in 2021 - 2022	9
Communication of Risks and Vulnerable Individuals	10
Protocols Applicable to All Activities	11
Short-term Isolating at WMRC and Evacuation	13
Safety and Evacuation Plan Provision to WMRC	14
Sleeping Quarters and Bathroom Management	15
Food and Drinking Water, Materials and Supplies, Computing, Transportation, Lab	15
Visiting Local Communities	16
Appendices	17

UC WHITE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH CENTER



Dear WMRC Researchers and Educators,

In the face of the COVID-19 situation, the White Mountain Research Center (WMRC) suspended operations in Winter 2020, and then commenced hosting small groups of researchers and educators with adult classes at the Bishop facility, under strict COVID-19 protocols, in Summer 2020. The upper stations at Crooked Creek, Barcroft and Summit were closed to overnight visitors. With this revision we anticipate carefully controlled opening of all WMRC stations commencing June, 2021. UCLA and WMRC have adopted relatively strict operating procedures, sometimes beyond what are required by local public health. These measures will help keep you healthy and minimize disruption to research and educational activities. With researchers and educators and classes typically arriving from locations across the country, we have adopted procedures to keep guests and staff safe and reduce the chance of contributing to an outbreak in the town of Bishop or other local communities. This Playbook is subject to revision as necessary.

Current (April 14, 2021) and anticipated State of California status of Inyo County and higher education activities is as follows -

Current COVID-19 Status - Substantial

Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed. [Understand the data](#). Counties can restrict further. Check your [county's website](#).

Guidance - Higher Education Institutions

Capacity for indoor lectures and student gatherings must be limited to 50% or 200 people, whichever is less. Occupancy is based on applicable building or fire code occupancy. Some courses conducted in certain indoor settings, like labs and studio arts, may be open at regular capacity. Conduct student activities virtually when possible.

See guidance for [Higher education](#)

Anticipated

We have designed this revision of the Playbook to meet current COVID-19 restrictions and guidance, however, we anticipate continued improvement in Inyo County and Statewide resumption of normal activities by June 15, 2021. We will monitor this carefully.

WMRC COVID-19 Playbook Important Points

Please read this playbook carefully prior to your arrival. It contains important information about documentation required prior to arrival, what you'll need to bring to WMRC and new protocols you'll be expected to follow.

Important Definition: This document uses the terms approved family research or educational group or the term COVID pod to refer to organized groups of users that's members have undergone pre-arrival COVID-19 symptoms monitoring for 7-14 days, and have negative COVID-19 tests shortly prior to arrival, or have all been fully vaccinated at the recommended 14 days prior to arrival at WMRC (see Appendix 1). Such groups are treated as members of the same domicile in terms of their intra-group interactions and facility access.

You will find many more details below, but expectations for Summer 2021-Winter 2022 include:

- Due to the nature of the pandemic, availability and use of WMRC facilities could change with little warning.
- Use restricted to researchers and adult educational groups only.
- This should be for time-sensitive critical research activities and time-sensitive critical educational training requiring in-person work of training .
- Prior to arrival you will conduct 7-14 days pre-trip monitoring/testing and supply documentation from your institution approving your research and field plans, or educational plan, and a COVID-19 safety/evacuation plan.
- It is preferred that all researchers and educational users be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, 14 days prior to arrival. Please inform WMRC of vaccination status of all members prior to arrival. Copies of vaccination cards should be presented if requested by WMRC.
- Due to the current vaccines being approved through an emergency use authorization, WMRC can not make vaccination mandatory, yet it is highly recommended.
- No vaccine is 100% effective. Even if vaccinated – all social distancing, masking and other preventive measure must be adhered to.
- Social distancing and facility hygiene rules will be strictly enforced.
- Masks will be required in classrooms and all locations, inside or outside, where required social distancing cannot be fully maintained during an activity.
- Nonessential travel to/from WMRC should be limited except in the case of visiting non-populated natural field sites for research or educational activities.
- Except in the case of WMRC approved family group/pod research/educational groups (COVID-19 pods), visitors will have individual rooms with individual or minimally shared bathrooms and should not visit other people's bedrooms.
- You will need to perform and document daily symptom checks via self-monitoring (Appendix 2).
- Plan for the smallest number of individuals required for the research or educational activity. Allowable group size for WMRC approved family research/educational groups (COVID-19 Pods) will be determined in consultation with WMRC staff. Visitors who are not considered WMRC approved COVID-19 Pods will be limited to: Owens Valley - 17 people or less for indoor sleeping accommodations. Groups with some members sleeping in individual personal tents in designated allocated spaces only may, in consultation with WMRC, exceed this number. Crooked Creek - 12 people or less for indoor sleeping accommodations. Groups with some members sleeping in individual personal tents in allocated designated spaces only may, in consultation with WMRC, exceed this number. Barcroft – Single groups of designated family research or educational units (COVID-19 Pods) only, limited to 15 individuals.

- Dining hall meals are not available at any station until further notice. Bring your own food.
- Plan to limit visits to local communities.
- Many staff will be telecommuting and not available on site.
- There will be no linen service or laundry facilities on site.

Items to procure now and bring with you to Bishop:

- COVID-19 vaccination card if possible
- Masks (non-medical masks are ok)
- Disposable gloves
- Thermometer (for each person) for daily symptom monitoring (any kind of thermometer is acceptable)
- Hand sanitizer (min. 60% alcohol based)
- Sleeping bag, pillow, towels, dish towels
- Food supplies – none will be provided. Easy to prepare food that can be prepared outside is ideal. Bring your own eating utensils. Keep in mind that you must request access to dining areas or kitchens when booking and it may not be possible to grant access to indoor dining areas, kitchens and refrigerators etc., in which case you'll have to bring your own utensils, small camp stove for use outdoors only where permitted by WMRC and appropriate agencies such as USFS, and ice chest etc. and plan to eat out doors. Plan on obtaining propane and ice in town if needed. The WMRC ice maker may not be available. Please check with WMRC staff about dining/kitchen assignments. To limit visits to the town of Bishop and other communities, bring as much of your food and other supplies as possible.

Questions after reading this playbook? Contact Steven Devanzo, Operations Manager, sdevanzo@ucla.edu and Glen MacDonald, Director WMRC glen@geog.ucla.edu

Despite these challenging times – we still hope to help you with critical research and educational activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 & SUMMER 2021-WINTER 2022 OPERATIONS

Goal

The goal of this plan is to enable the continuation of critical time-sensitive research projects and important and critical time-sensitive educational activity that require person-to-person field work or instruction. These activities will be accommodated while protecting the safety of the individuals participating in the research or educational activities and working to ensure that they do not bring the virus to the WMRC and local community, and through appropriate practices make certain we do all we can to avoid importation or transmission of the virus. Given the potential for the ongoing spread of the virus, and the possibility of hosting guests through this, we have developed a restrictive operational plan that may go beyond current state and county expectations. The plan focuses on critical research and educational activities based at the Bishop, Crooked Creek, Barcroft and Summit stations, reducing contact within the WMRC community, reducing contact between WMRC guests and the larger community, and aggressive monitoring, hygiene and social distancing measures. With the availability of vaccines we strongly encourage users to be vaccinated prior to arrival at WMRC.

Importance of WMRC's Operation

Enabling WMRC to operate, even on a limited basis, is of great scientific and educational importance. The loss of field seasons because of the virus threatens to significantly set back important scientific advances and educational activities for years to come. Some university and agency educational programs require field-training as an essential component. As the virus outbreak demonstrates, the quality of our lives and economic vitality depend upon the interface between humans and the environment. Policy and management are ideally based upon a foundation of scientific understanding. Field stations serve as critical infrastructure at the interface between scientists, educators, society, and the environment. Additionally, we have researchers at vulnerable career stages for whom loss of a field season could be devastating. We also have students and professionals who must have field experience for degrees and certificates. Finally, UC NRS facilities such as WMRC can be the first experience students and others from historically underserved racial, immigrant and socioeconomic groups may have to experience field education and research. This contributes directly to the stated goal of the UC system to “achieving diversity in the classroom, research lab and the workplace”.

Development and Modification of Operating Procedures

WMRC's strategies for operating during COVID-19 have been informed by State of California, UC and UCLA guidance, and reviewed and approved by WMRC Director, Operations Manager and Staff, and the UCLA EH&S Field Safety Office. WMRC staff have developed the operating details within the context of those guidances and approvals. As WMRC learns more about how to operate safely and effectively within the context of the virus, we will improve these operating procedures.

Strategies

We have developed these general strategies to allow essential research and essential small adult classes to proceed.

Reducing Introduction of Virus by WMRC to Larger Community

- Limit individuals traveling to WMRC to those actively involved in research and adult educational classes.
- If possible, full COVID-19 vaccination 14 days prior to arrival.

- Monitor health for 7 to 14 days prior to departure for WMRC and if possible test for COVID-19 just prior to departure to WMRC. Individuals fully vaccinated 14 days prior to arrival do not require a test.
- Upon arrival, users will rigorously follow face mask, social distancing and hygiene/sanitation rules at WMRC. Users will also be expected to follow the rules and guidance applied by the local authorities in nearby towns and facilities when in those towns or facilities.

Reducing Transmission/Contacts Between WMRC and Larger Community

- We have cancelled group gatherings involving the general public, including seminars, public lectures, tours.
- Although researchers and educators may need to visit towns for supplies etc., we discourage nonessential travel and contact between WMRC and local communities.
- Local WMRC staff who do not need to be present at WMRC at Owens Valley Station or other facilities will continue to work from home. We will have some staff onsite to ensure safety, facilities maintenance and effective communications. Researchers, educators and students should keep interaction with onsite staff to a minimum and follow rigorous social distancing and mask use in the presence of staff, non-staff service personnel or other guests at WMRC who are not part of your own designated family research group or educational group -COVID-19 pod - (if you have been so designated by your institution and approved by WMRC).

Reducing Transmission/Contacts Within WMRC Community

- Group gatherings can be held by members of the same designated family research group or educational group pod. If a research or educational group is not so designated, they must wear masks and maintain a minimum social distance of 6' from each other and all others at WMRC at all times.
- Research groups or educational groups that arrive together and conduct research or studies together can be considered a research or educational family unit or pod for their interactions if all members of the group have agreed on this and the group provides outline of protocols and appropriate documentation from home institutions approving this research or educational plan (Appendix 1). In all cases, members of such groups must still socially distance from WMRC staff, other workers on site and members of other research groups.
- If a group has not received approval from their institution and WMRC to act as a designated family research unit or educational unit pod they must maintain strict social distancing from each other, mask use within the group and limited use of indoor spaces such as labs and classrooms – which must be at low density, socially distanced and masked.
- If there is any chance that social distancing of 6' cannot be maintained, even outside, by individuals who are not part of the same designated family research or educational group pod, masks must be worn.
- Sharing of indoor space or close-proximity outdoor space (such as picnic tables etc.) by individuals not belonging to the same family research or educational group pod must be avoided.
- We will reduce overall housing density and generally eliminate sharing of bedroom spaces by individuals who are not family or partners from the same household or approved pod.
- The main kitchen and dining hall may be closed to visitors. Any access will be by special arrangement for designated pods and under strict social distancing requirements. One of the two small visitor kitchens may be assigned to individuals or to groups with permission to operate as a family research or educational unit pod. There will be no sharing of kitchens between individuals who are not of the same family research or educational unit pod. If a

kitchen is not available for use during your stay we will inform you before you arrive so you will have time to plan your meals accordingly. Please make sure you are aware of which kitchen is assigned to you. You cannot enter a kitchen if you have not been assigned one. Please practice frequent sanitizing of surface, equipment and utensils and handwashing.

- Guests are not allowed to enter the WMRC main building, the offices, dining room and food service area, bathroom, laundry area etc. without specific permission and under strict guidelines. Guests are not allowed to enter accommodations, bathrooms, classrooms, labs, workshops or any other buildings or rooms not assigned to them.
- Manis Lab: The Lab will generally only be available for one individual at a time. Multi-person low density occupancy is allowed by members of the same designated family research unit pod. Masks should be used. If educational groups enter the lab they must wear masks. Please practice frequent handwashing, and practice sanitizing of the lab prior to and after use.
- Classrooms will only be available by assignment at the discretion of WMRC. Even members of the same designated family research group or educational group must maintain a 6' distance at desks, tables etc. in classrooms. Mask use is also mandatory for all others.
- You must sanitize your assigned kitchen/bed/bath, lab, classroom or any other space assigned to you, upon arrival and prior to departure (please see Appendix 4).
- Please protect yourself through hand washing, frequent sanitizing, maintaining physical distancing and appropriate use of a mask throughout your stay at WMRC.
- We will require WMRC staff and visitors to practice daily self-monitoring (Appendix 2) and document daily symptom monitoring.
- We will require any guest who is symptomatic for COVID-19, has come into contact (more than 10 minutes within six feet) with symptomatic individuals, or those who have tested positive for COVID-19 to alert WMRC and their group immediately, isolate in a space as directed to by WMRC staff, and depart the WMRC for medical care, their home or home institution immediately. They should alert WMRC of their departure and list all individuals, rooms and equipment at WMRC they have had contact with. They should be tested as soon as is feasible and contact WMRC with results. It is the responsibility of the researcher, research group, educator or educational group and their home institution to evacuate such individuals safely - avoiding contact with others at WMRC or in the local community. All members of any designated family research group or educational group will follow the procedures outlined above if one member of the group is symptomatic, tested positive for COVID-19 or found to have been in contact with a symptomatic or positive individual.
- We will strictly isolate individuals who have tested positive, or are symptomatic, or have been in contact with positive or symptomatic individuals in their rooms. If that is not possible, we will keep a limited number of rooms with bathrooms for isolation purposes. We can allow such individuals to stay at WMRC for only a very short time while they await evacuation.
- WMRC cannot transport individuals for evacuation or medical treatment.
- To be clear - It is essential that all guests have a clear COVID-19 rapid evacuation plan for themselves and their group members and that plan does not rely on the limited resources of the WMRC for care or transportation.
- We will implement and update as needed best safety practices for all areas of operation as detailed in this document.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this document. This document was developed to protect your health, the health of WMRC staff and the health of the local community. This is an evolving document that will guide operational decisions and activities throughout the coronavirus pandemic. We are facing unprecedented conditions and risks, so a definitive, all-inclusive guide is an unrealistic goal. Rather, this document is meant to be an updatable “playbook” to:

- Establish a framework for operating during the pandemic, including goals, priorities and protocols;
- Lay out the logic for our approach and decisions;
- Provide transparency and accountability for staff, guests and community members.

As needed, we will evaluate amendments to this plan, constrained by any County regulations and applicable State/County health orders. As changes are made, they will be communicated to the WMRC staff and to the WMRC guest community using email and physical signs if more urgent communications are needed, at the discretion of the Director or Operations Manager. Questions, ideas or concerns may be presented at any time to Operations Manager Steven Devanzo (sdevanzo@ucla.edu).

New norms, new expectations. Communities all over the world are establishing new norms and new expectations for how we care for each other. Until the pandemic passes, life at WMRC will be different. We will wear masks. We will wave from afar rather than greeting each other with bear hugs. Some staff will continue to work from home, or maybe stagger schedules. But some things will not change. Our commitment to researchers and educators is unwavering. Through all of this, creating and nurturing an environment of trust and forgiveness is essential. ***We will not get everything right, and the best way to get through this together will be to trust that we did the best we could at the time.***

Safety is non-negotiable. We will follow the recommendations and guidelines issued by public health officials and/or infectious disease experts so as not to expose our staff and visitors to unacceptable health risks. If you are unwilling to, or cannot, follow the guidelines provided here, please do not visit WMRC this season. Researchers/educators/students ignoring the guidelines will be asked to leave WMRC. The WMRC will not be responsible for any direct or indirect costs of such cancellations of your stay (Appendix 3).

WMRC FACILITIES AVAILABLE Summer 2021 – Winter 2022

Owens Valley Station. Owens Valley Station will be open with restrictions.

Dorms and Cabins. Allowable group size for WMRC approved family research/education groups (Covid-19 Pods) will be determined in consultation with WMRC staff. For groups who are not WMRC approved pods, there will be a limit of 17 people or less for indoor sleeping accommodations, with one individual per room. Groups with some members sleeping in individual personal tents in allocated camping spaces may, in consultation with WMRC, exceed this number. Under normal operating conditions, rooms can house up to 8

people each, with a total indoor capacity of 50+ individuals. Users must bring their own sleeping bag, pillows, towels, etc. There will be no meal service and users must bring their own food.

Main office building and other buildings. The main office building, including the kitchen, laundry room, dining hall and staff offices will generally be closed except via special arrangement. No meals will be available. Researchers should not enter this or any other building or room at WMRC aside from those assigned to them. To contact staff, use phone numbers and emails provided.

Visitor kitchens and dining. The two visitor kitchens will only be open to individuals/groups who have written permission. Only individuals from the same family research or educational unit (pod) are allowed to be in the assigned kitchen at the same time. Visitor kitchens are small with limited equipment. Food that can be prepared outside would be helpful. Dining should take place socially distanced from anyone not in the same family research group using the picnic tables or lawn area. Food is not to be taken into the Manis Lab, classrooms or sleeping quarters.

Crooked Creek Station, Barcroft Station, Summit Hut

Crooked Creek – will be available by special arrangement for time sensitive essential research or education. Please consult WMRC Staff. Allowable group size for WMRC approved family research/educational groups (COVID-19 Pods) will be determined in consultation with WMRC staff. For groups who are not WMRC approved pods, there will be a limit of 12 people or less for indoor sleeping accommodations, with one individual assigned per room. Groups with some members sleeping in individual personal tents in allocated camping spaces may, in consultation with WMRC, exceed this number. Under normal operating condition, rooms can house up to 6 people each, with a total indoor capacity of 40 individuals. Users must bring their own sleeping bag, pillows, towels etc. There will be no meal service, and users must bring their own food. Cooking outdoor camping food preferred. If using the kitchen, limit number of people in the kitchen to three persons of the same approved group (pod) and practice full disinfection of all surfaces and utensils prior to and again after use. Food that can be prepared outside would be helpful. Dining should take place socially distanced from anyone not in the same family research group (pod). You must fully disinfect all use areas upon arrival and just before departure. Follow all WMRC COVID-19 protocols.

Barcroft – open by special arrangement only to single designated family research units (pods) conducting time-sensitive essential research only. Vaccination highly recommended. Maximum group size is 15 of the same pod. Users must bring their own sleeping bag, pillows, towels etc. There will be no meal service and you must bring your own food. If using the kitchen cooking area, limit number of people in the kitchen cooking area to two persons of the same pod and practice full disinfection of all surfaces and utensils prior to and again after use. You must fully disinfect all use areas upon arrival and just before departure. Please consult directly with WMRC Staff regarding availability and use of Barcroft. Follow all WMRC COVID-19 protocols.

Summit Hut – short day visits only for servicing equipment there for time critical essential research only. Follow all WMRC COVID-19 protocols.

COMMUNICATION OF RISKS AND VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

Please be aware of the risks of working at WMRC and the risks of traveling. One of the most common serious complications associated with COVID-19 is a struggle to breathe. WMRC and surrounding environs are at high elevation and low oxygen levels only make this worse. Furthermore, Bishop has one hospital with a limited number of beds and intensive care facilities available. Finally, both the Inyo County and the Mono County emergency rescue teams may not be able to provide the same degree of help as in previous years if you need assistance in a wilderness location. COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended.

Because of these risks, we will require all individuals to provide an evacuation plan with their research or educational safety plan and emergency contacts. Safety measures, PPE etc. and evacuation to their home or home institution cannot be dependent upon WMRC staff or resources.

WMRC understands the special responsibility to protect vulnerable individuals at greater risk of serious health complications from the virus. We will comply with any requirements in state or county public health orders pertaining to vulnerable individuals, such as workplace accommodations for employees. Furthermore, we ask vulnerable individuals to refrain from visiting WMRC this summer.

Vulnerable Individual means:

1. Individuals who are 65 years and older;
2. Individuals with chronic lung disease;
3. Individuals who have serious heart conditions;
4. Individuals who are immunocompromised;
5. Pregnant women; and
6. Individuals determined to be high risk by a licensed healthcare provider.
7. Currently the CDC considers individuals with moderate to severe asthma as vulnerable. Emerging data, however, currently suggests that asthma does not create complications with the virus. We will let you decide whether you consider your asthma as classifying you as vulnerable.

PROTOCOLS APPLICABLE TO ALL ACTIVITIES

The following protocols are applicable to all activities at WMRC. Although some exemptions may be approved by the Operations Manager, these will only be provided in exceptional circumstances, such as circumstances where animal welfare or other safety considerations could be compromised. A CDC-approved disinfectant will be provided for disinfecting assigned spaces.

GENERAL HIGHER EDUCATION GUIDELINES FROM STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Facilities use and operations at WMRC will be guided by the State of California Guidance: Institutions of Higher Education. Please familiarize yourself with the State guidance for [Higher education](#) . This can prohibit use of, or limit number of people in, labs, classrooms or other spaces at WMRC facilities. WMRC will continuously monitor state guidance and inform users of such restrictions and enforce them.

VACCINATION

Full COVID-19 vaccination completed between 14 days prior to arrival at WMRC is highly recommended. Because current vaccines are approved through an emergency use authorization, WMRC will not At this time use vaccination status as a criteria for accepting an individual nor in prioritizing space.

FACE MASKS AND PPE

Mask use whenever possible when with other people is mandatory. Masks must be worn in all common areas and outside if there is a reasonable expectation of passing within 6 feet of other individuals not in your own designated family research/educational unit (pod). Non-medical masks are acceptable, ideally double layered, tightly woven, and washable fabric. You may want to use disposable gloves if you are disinfecting surfaces, equipment or utensils. WMRC will provide masks and gloves for WMRC staff only. All other individuals must provide their own masks, gloves and any other PPE.

Review masks and use here - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

SOCIAL DISTANCING EXPECTATIONS

Individuals shall:

- Maintain at least a six-foot distance from other individuals outside their family research/educational group, unless research/educational protocols absolutely require closer contact and include procedures in which additional appropriate measures for safety are used (e.g. PPE);
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer after (and if possible, before) contact with common use items (e.g., door knobs);
- Cover coughs or sneezes into the sleeve or elbow, not hands;
- Not shake hands or otherwise make physical contact.

PERSONAL HYGIENE / HANDWASHING / HAND SANITIZER / CLEANING

WMRC will offer hand sanitizer at a few stations at the facility. Guests are strongly encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer. Hand soap will be provided at all sinks and individuals should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer) frequently throughout the day. CDC-approved disinfectants will be provided for disinfecting assigned spaces before and after use. You must disinfect your room, bathroom, kitchen, lab and any other spaces assigned to you upon arrival and prior to departure from WMRC (Appendix 4)

DAILY HEALTH CHECKS, TESTING IF NEEDED & ISOLATION FOR SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

As required by the Guidelines for UCLA Research Ramp Up ([LINK](#)), all WMRC staff and visiting researchers must complete a daily symptom checklist, including taking their temperature (Appendix 2). These may be recorded in your field book or similar small notebook so that you can determine the onset of symptoms if contact tracing is required.

If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have tested positive, or have had prolonged exposure to an individual who has posted positive you must report this to WMRC staff immediately and begin isolation and evacuation procedure (Appendix 2).

You can seek information on local testing in Bishop at the Rural Health Clinic - (760) 873-2849 and Public Health Office -(760) 873-7868. In a medical emergency – dial 911.

GROUP SIZE & GROUP GATHERINGS

Research and educational group size will be limited. The specific number depending upon the WMRC facility being visited. This includes group size for hikes and other outdoor activities. WMRC reserves the right to further limit your group size or deny a reservation based upon our capacity at the time of your planned visit. Please plan for the smallest group size needed to conduct your research or educational activities.

Indoor gatherings at WMRC and Bishop should generally be limited to small groups who otherwise have regular contact and are considered a family research/educational unit.

LIMITING NONESSENTIAL TRIPS

Limiting contact with individuals outside your family research unit is an effective strategy to limit and contain virus transmission. Nonessential back and forth travel and non-essential contact or socializing between WMRC and other communities, including Bishop and local communities is discouraged. If your activities may endanger people at WMRC or the local communities you will be asked to leave WMRC.

ENFORCEMENT

All staff and WMRC visitors are expected to comply with these protocols. Researchers, educators and students who choose to disregard these protocols may be asked to leave. The WMRC Operations Manager will initially handle all disciplinary actions (including verbal and/or written warnings) and the WMRC Director will make final decisions if an individual or group is asked to leave. While in most circumstances we will provide a warning and an opportunity for an individual or group to correct their behavior, we reserve the right to immediately dismiss an individual or group if they put others at risk, or their behavior seriously threatens the health and integrity of the community. The WMRC will not reimburse researchers, educators or students for any expenses incurred because they have been told to leave WMRC due to non-compliance with COVID-19 policies.

WAIVER AND AGREEMENT OF PROTOCOLS

All researchers, educators and students will be required to sign a waiver of liability and an agreement to abide by the terms of the WMRC protocols for guests and the use of the facilities. These protocols include the possible provision of COVID-19 related medical information to WMRC and UCLA. If you, or group members, do not wish to sign the waiver and agreement please notify WMRC and seek facilities and accommodation elsewhere as we will not be able to accommodate you at WMRC.

SHORT-TERM ISOLATING AT WMRC AND EVACUATION

WMRC will require any guest who has come into contact (more than 10 minutes within six feet) with symptomatic individuals, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or those who have tested positive for COVID-19 to alert WMRC and their group immediately, isolate in a space as directed to by WMRC staff, avoid any physical contact with any others by practicing complete social distancing, wear a mask and depart the WMRC for medical care, their home or home institution immediately if safe for them to do so. They should alert WMRC of their departure and list all individuals at WMRC they have had contact with and rooms they have been in. They should be tested as soon as is feasible and are asked to contact WMRC with results as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the researcher, research team

and their home institution to evacuate such individuals safely - avoiding contact with others at WMRC or in the local community. All members of any designated research/educational family group will follow the procedures outlined above if one member of the group is symptomatic, tested positive for COVID-19 or found to have been in contact with a symptomatic or positive individual.

WMRC will isolate individuals who have tested positive, or are symptomatic, or have been in contact with positive or symptomatic individuals in their rooms. If for some reason that is not possible, WMRC will keep a limited number of rooms with bathrooms for isolation purposes. WMRC can allow such individuals to stay at WMRC for only a very short time while they await evacuation. Such individuals are to remain in strict isolation in the space designated by WMRC staff until evacuation. WMRC staff cannot care for such individuals, provide meals, or provide other services.

WMRC cannot transport individuals for evacuation or medical treatment. If in need of immediate medical attention call 911 and alert the operator of your condition. To seek non-urgent medical help, contact the local hospital and alert them of your condition and seek care or admission. For instructions on visiting for care or admission to the local hospital in Bishop call NIHD Admissions at (760) 873-5811

SAFETY AND EVACUATION PLANS PROVISION TO WMRC

Each research/educational group must develop their own coronavirus safety and evacuation plan with their home institute. The plan must have an evacuation component for individuals or groups who have tested positive, or are symptomatic, or have been in contact with positive or symptomatic individuals. The outline of the plan must be provided to WMRC, along with a critical research or critical education permission document from their home institution as early as possible prior to arrival. Please provide an emergency contact phone number and email for a responsible party outside of your field party. We advise you to have these documents in hand at the time you make a reservation or shortly thereafter. WMRC will not assume responsibility or liability resulting from use of the WMRC protocols, the protocols in your research/education and evacuation plans, or the failure of guests to follow protocols. Transport to and from field sites is the responsibility of the guests and their institutions and must follow protocols approved in their research/educational plan. WMRC will not provide any transportation or access to vehicles to researchers, educators or students.

If you need to use of a lab, the Manis Lab at Owens Valley Station is the only lab available this season. Make sure your safety plan includes any procedures requiring time in the lab. The lab will only be available for use by four individuals at a time from the same family research unit, or one individual at a time if they are not a member of a designated family research unit. Please request and schedule your lab time during your booking process by contacting: wrcinfo@ucla.edu . If you have not booked lab time in advance you will not have access to the Manis Lab. Also contact WMRC about classroom use.

Items to be addressed in each research groups safety plan include the following:

- Daily symptom monitoring protocols
- Travel to field sites: How will lab team members travel to field sites? If vehicles are used, who will share a vehicle and who will drive separately?

- Social Distancing and research/educational activities: How will Social Distancing be achieved during field work and field instruction? If Social Distancing is impossible for limited periods of time, please explain the situation and how PPE will be used.
- Supplies: How will your team get research, educational and personal supplies that they do not already have?
- Evacuation plan in the event of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection in individual or group.

Please email your letter of research permission from your home institution and your safety/evacuation plan ASAP to wrcinfo@ucla.edu as soon as possible after making a reservation at WMRC. Reservations cannot be confirmed until your permission and plan are received and approved by WMRC.

SLEEPING QUARTERS AND BATHROOM MANAGEMENT

We will assign individual sleeping quarters, tent space, and bathrooms to guests. Except in the case of individuals who are in an approved COVID-19 pod, guests will have individual sleeping quarters and must use individual tents. Those are the only ones they are to enter.

WMRC will provide soap and disinfecting supplies for sleeping quarters and bathrooms. Disinfecting protocols are provided in Appendix 4 and will be provided via signage. Disinfection will be the guests' responsibility upon arrival and again upon departure.

WMRC will not supply linens, pillows, bath towels, face towels etc. Guests should bring sleeping bags, pillows and all towels/dishtowels etc. There will be no onsite laundry facilities available at WMRC.

FOOD & DRINKING WATER, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, COMPUTING, TRANSPORTATION, LAB

Food and Drinking Water. All guests at WMRC are responsible for their own food and bottled drinking water supplies. The large kitchen and dining hall are off limits to guests without WMRC approval and no food or drinking water, aside from tap water, will be available. Ice will not be available.

Materials & Supplies. All guests at WMRC are responsible for their own materials and supplies.

Computer Lab. The computer lab will be generally closed. Contact WMRC if access is critical. WIFI will be available. Guests should bring their own printers for use in their accommodations to house their printer if they anticipate needing to print.

Field Site Transportation. Transportation to and from field sites is the responsibility of the researchers. WMRC will provide no transportation. Masks must be worn if there is a reasonable expectation of passing within 6 feet of someone who is not in your family unit. Social distancing must be maintained. Follow your lab's safety plan.

Labs. The Labs at Owens Valley, Crooked Creek and Barcroft are only open for activities that must be performed in the lab space. The labs may not be used as an office or “quiet space” to complete non-lab activities. Multiple individuals may only be in the same lab at the same time only if they are in the same family research/educational unit. The maximum number of such people allowed in the lab at one time is four. The lab surfaces and equipment used must be disinfected prior to and after use.

Classrooms. Classroom space may be available by special request and when permitted by California COVID-19 guidelines, and capacities will adhere to those guidelines. Masks **MUST** be worn and a 6’ social distance spacing must be maintained between seats, desks etc. The surfaces and equipment used must be disinfected prior to and after use.

VISITING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

To decrease the chance of transmitting COVID-19 to local communities and decrease the chance of introducing COVID-19 to WMRC, limit your visits to the town of Bishop and other communities as much as possible. Avoid non-essential contact, and socializing. All local ordinances on social distancing and face covering must be followed when visiting Bishop or other local communities. If a private business or government office requires face covering you are expected to comply. To be clear, to protect the health of local communities and your health, please limit visits to local communities.

APPENDIX 1: Pre-Trip Monitoring and Designated Family Research Group or Educational Group Pod

Vaccination Prior to Departure to WMRC

As COVID-19 vaccines are becoming widely available, we urge all WMRC users to have completed full vaccination between 180 and 14 days prior to arrival. Vaccination is not mandatory, but highly recommended. Please inform WMRC of vaccination status of members in your party. Please remember that vaccination is not 100% effective and all WMRC visitors, vaccinated or not, are required to follow the COVID-19 protocols in this Playbook.

Monitoring Prior to Departure to WMRC

Individuals and groups coming to WMRC for essential research or essential educational activities have a responsibility to self-monitor daily for 14 days prior to arrival at our facilities. Guidelines for daily monitoring can be found in Appendix 2. If any symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 infection arise at any time during the monitoring period you cannot come to WMRC until after a 14 day symptom-free period or negative COVID-19 test. If possible, individuals and groups should get tested for COVID-19 shortly before departure for WMRC. If the test comes back positive you cannot visit WMRC until you have been cleared via a negative COVID-19 test result.

Designation as a Family Research Group or Family Educational Group Pod

Your home institution must approve your research/education safety plan and determine if your group can be treated as a designated family research/education group. If that is not the case, all individuals in your group must practice social distancing and mask-use when in each other's presence, and may not be in kitchens, labs or other indoor spaces together. One convention for designation as a family research/educational group pod is – Individuals in the same research group who have monitored for 14 days, tested negative for COVID-19 immediately prior to start of field work and arrival at WMRC, have avoided non-masked and non-socially distanced interactions with people outside the group, have no COVID-19 symptoms, have agreed to interact with each in the manner that a family in shared home (i.e. without strict masking and social distancing), and have been approved to interact in this manner by their home institution may be designated as a family research/educational group. With COVID-19 vaccines available, groups in which all members have been vaccinated 180 to 14 days prior to arrival may also request to be considered a family research group or educational group pod. Again, please make sure your home institution has approved your plan and designation as a family research/educational group. WMRC cannot assume this responsibility. If you have been designated a family research/educational group by your home institution please inform WMRC Staff and provide documentation. WMRC will then determine if you can operate at our facility as a designated family research unit or educational unit pod at our facilities.

APPENDIX 2: Self-Monitoring Form and Evacuation if Needed

WMRC Symptom Monitoring: COVID-19
Last updated: 6/8/2020

NAME _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL AT WMRC _____

Allergies, Cold, Flu or COVID-19 Virus?

Here's how to tell the difference between allergy symptoms and the novel 2019 Coronavirus.

Symptoms	ALLERGIES	COLD	INFLUENZA	COVID-19
Symptoms begin	Gradually	Gradually	Abruptly	Within 14 days of exposure
Symptoms last	Allergy season	4 – 10 days	5 – 7 days	Varies by Person
Body aches	—	✓	✓	Sometimes
Chills	—	Less Common	✓	Sometimes
Dry cough	✓	—	✓	✓
Exposure to germs	—	✓	✓	✓
Fatigue/Weakness	Sometimes	✓	✓	✓
Fever	—	Less Common	✓	✓
Headaches	✓	Less Common	✓	Sometimes
Itchy eyes	✓	—	—	—
Nasal Congestion	✓	✓	—	Less Common
Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea	—	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
New loss of taste or smell	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes	✓
Repeated shaking with chills	—	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Runny nose	✓	✓	✓	Less Common
Sneeze	✓	✓	✓	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	✓	✓	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	Less Common	✓	✓
Symptoms get worse	—	—	✓	✓

Think You Have COVID-19?
 Stay home and away from others • Monitor symptoms • Rest • Cover coughs and sneezes •
 Wash hands with soap and water often • Treat symptoms

Contact your doctor if you have a fever, cough, difficulty breathing or existing chronic disease.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Monitor your symptoms daily, throughout your stay at WMRC.
2. Refer to the previous chart to help you evaluate whether your symptoms might be related to COVID-19 or another respiratory illness. **In the table below, mark YES to any symptoms you believe may be COVID-related.** Use your best judgment. WMRC personnel cannot help you determine whether your symptoms might be COVID-related.
3. If you have NO symptoms, you may continue normal activities.
4. **If you mark YES to any symptoms in the table below, self-isolation will be required. Continue to page 2 for more instructions.**

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, seek medical attention or CALL 911.

Date	Temp of 100.4 F or higher	New onset or worsening cough	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Muscle aches	Sore throat	New loss of taste or smell
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N
	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N	Y or N

WMRC ISOLATION AND EVACUATION

WMRC cannot care for sick individuals and their research/educational group must evacuate to home, home institution or medical facility. If you cannot evacuate immediately, WMRC would like you to practice strict isolation in your room until evacuation. Guidance from the CDC confirms that a person's residence is the preferred place of isolation for symptomatic individuals. If isolation in your room is not possible, WMRC will assign a space for isolation while you await evacuation. Under no circumstances can sick individuals or their research groups remain at WMRC.

SELF-ISOLATION AND EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- Notify WMRC Staff at once and begin process of evacuation from WMRC
- Isolate until evacuation. The preferred setting for isolation is your room
- As much as possible, stay in your room and away from others.
- Wear a facemask when you are around other people.

PRESUMED POSITIVE (Consult Medical Professionals)

- You have had close contact with a confirmed case within the last 14 days, *AND*
- You are symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF RECOVERY (Consult Medical Professionals)

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is 3 full days of no fever without using medicine that reduces fevers), *AND*
- Other symptoms have improved, *AND*
- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

IMPORTANT HEALTH CONTACTS

Dial 911 for Emergency Medical Assistance

Northern Inyo Hospital
Address: 150 Pioneer Ln, Bishop, CA 93514
Hours: Open 24 hours
Emergency room: Open 24 hours
Phone: (760) 873-5811

Inyo County Public Health
Address: 207 W South St A, Bishop, CA 93514
Phone: (760) 873-7868

Rural Health Clinic
153 Pioneer Ln, Bishop, CA 93514
Hours: Open · Closes 5PM
Phone: (760) 873-2849

County COVID-19 Website

<https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19>

APPENDIX 3: Liability, Updated Cancellation Policy, Waiver and Terms of Use

Research and field educational activities has inherent risks and the COVID-19 situation has created additional risks. Researchers, educators and students at WMRC should practice due diligence on understanding these risks. UC, UCLA, UC WMRC, accepts no liability for any physical injury, illness (including death) or economic loss you may suffer or which may result from visiting and using the facilities at WMRC, including, but not limited to, those caused by COVID-19.

WMRC may be forced by changes in the COVID-19 situation to alter operations or close at any time. We will provide notification as quickly as possible, but assume no liability if such closures are required.

Failure to provide a safety and evacuation plan authorized by your home institution will result in cancellation of your reservation.

Failure to sign a WMRC waiver and use agreement will result in cancellation of your reservation. If you have arrived at WMRC and refuse to sign the waiver and use agreement your reservation is considered cancelled and you will be asked to leave.

Failure to comply with the protocols provided in this document can result in your removal from WMRC facilities.

WMRC will not be responsible for any of your costs or damages related to cancellation of your reservation or removal from WMRC facilities.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
WHITE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH CENTER (WMRC)**

Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement Waiver: In consideration of being permitted to visit or participate in any way in any activity, including transportation, at the above location, I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, **do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue** The Regents of the University of California, its officers, employees, and agents from liability **from any and all claims including the negligence of The Regents of the University of California, its officers, employees, and agents**, resulting in personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, visitation or participation in any way in any activity, including transportation, at the above location.

Assumption of Risks: Visitation or participation carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, and sprains to 2) major injuries such as eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back injuries, heart attacks, and concussions to 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

Special Risks Related to COVID-19: Current visitation or participation carries with it special risks related to the presence of the COVID-19 virus in the population, potentially including individuals and groups and at the White Mountain Research Center. WMRC operations may change or be cancelled due to the pandemic. Exposure to COVID-19 may cause serious and prolonged illness including chronic conditions and catastrophic injuries including, but not limited to, loss of limbs, paralysis and death to you or those you come in contact with during or after your visit. Exposure to COVID-19, symptoms associated with COVID-19 or a positive test for COVID-19 will necessitate immediate isolation and evacuation and is wholly the responsibility of the undersigned, including any and all resulting costs or liabilities related to themselves or others.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in visitation or participation. I hereby assert that my visitation or participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD The Regents of the University of California HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my involvement in visitation or participation and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of California and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and **understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue.** I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and **intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability** to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Signature of Minor's Parent/Guardian Date

Signature of Participant Date

Participant's Age (If Minor): _____

Participant's Name (Print)

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
WHITE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH CENTER (WMRC)**

Agreement to Terms of Use: I have read the WMRC COVID-19 Playbook and understand and agree that during visitation or participation at WMRC I am bound by these protocols, including immediate reporting of any and all COVID-19 related health conditions directly to WMRC Staff in the period immediately prior to, during or immediately following visitation or participation.

I understand that should I violate the protocols in the WMRC COVID-19 Playbook I will be denied visitation and participation rights at WMRC and agree to leave the premises immediately and peacefully.

I further agree that I will be responsible for all costs related to my denial of visitation and participation rights at WMRC due to violation of the protocols in the WMRC COVID-19 Playbook.

I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily.

Signature of Minor's Parent/Guardian Date

Signature of Participant Date

Participant's Age (If Minor): _____

Participant's Name (Print)

APPENDIX 4: Room Disinfection

All rooms (bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, lab, classroom) and surfaces (lab tops, desks, seats, picnic tables etc.) should be disinfected before and after use. When you enter your assigned bedroom and bathroom for the first time upon arrival use one of the disinfectant agents provided to wipe down all surfaces such as bed frames, tables, chairs, counters, bathroom sinks and toilets which may have been touched by the previous occupant. You should be the only person entering your assigned room and bathroom and should not need to disinfect these areas again until your departure. Disinfect lab and kitchen surfaces, equipment and utensils in the same careful manner using the products supplied. Remember to disinfect door handles, cupboard handles, switches and anything else that could be touched by an individual. Wear your mask, wash your hands immediately and do not touch your face when disinfecting a room. Do not use a broom or stir up dust. Use a damp mop if you need to clean a floor. You may wish to wear disposable gloves and discard immediately upon finishing the disinfection procedure. Remember, the health and potentially the life of yourself or the next user of your room and bathroom may depend upon thorough disinfection.