

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Regional Operations Centers (ROC)

Return-to-Field Operations Safety Plan

Objective: To use this safety plan as a guide to return-to-field operations and beyond to mitigate against COVID-19 spread. This plan will be reviewed and updated, if needed, once per month.

Definitions:

- **Clean:** Use soap and water to remove germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. It lowers the risk of spreading infection.
- **Disinfect:** Use disinfectant products to kill germs on surfaces. By killing germs on a surface *after cleaning*, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection

Social Distancing

1. Each team lead will schedule field crews so that no more than one crew will be in a loading or sample drop off area(s) at a given time. A specific time window may be scheduled for each crew to load/unload equipment and drop off samples. There will be cases when a heavy cooler requires team lifting. In this case, DEP assigned masks and gloves are worn.
2. Social distancing rules:
 - 2.1 No more than one staff permitted in the calibration area at one time.
 - 2.2 No more than one staff permitted to prep bottles kits.
 - 2.3 No more than one staff permitted to prep sampling equipment.
 - 2.4 No more than one staff permitted in the sample drop off area at one time.
 - 2.5 No more than two staff permitted in a vehicle at a time.
 - 2.5.1 When available, it is recommended that two vehicles are taken on a two-person trip.
 - 2.5.2 No more than two-person per trip.
 - 2.6 If maintaining a 6-foot distance between staff is not an option, then it is mandatory to wear masks.
 - 2.7 Social distancing is observed while in the field.
3. All non-essential trips are cancelled (ex. Motorboat Training)
4. Overnight sampling trips are cancelled.
5. Masks and gloves are provided to field staff.
 - a. Be extra cautious in public areas, i.e. gas station. It is strongly encouraged to wear a mask in public areas.

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6. Hand sanitizer provided to field staff should be used after contacting equipment and visiting public areas.
7. Vehicle cabs are sanitized with disinfectant before and after use.
8. Field staff establish separate tasks, so equipment is not shared.

8.1 For example, if one staff is performing field measurement, the other is performing documentation.

8.2 If field meter calibrations are conducted by one staff for multiple teams, the field meters are disinfected.

Cleaning Protocols

1. Facial coverings and disposable gloves must be worn with all cleaning and disinfecting, and gloves are to be properly disposed into a trash can after use. After cleaning is complete, sanitize your hands with the hand sanitizer meeting the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and use disposable sanitizing wipes and/or spray disinfection solution and paper towels to clean. When EPA-approved disinfectants are not available, alternative disinfectants can be used (**for example, 1/3 cup of bleach added to 1 gallon of water, or 70% alcohol solutions**).

1.1 Eye protection (goggles) or face shield is required for mixing of chemicals. Prior to use at the beginning of each day and as needed throughout the day, conduct normal cleaning with soap and water on surfaces and objects. For larger vessels where applicable, use of a pressure washer is recommended.

1.2 Upon the close of day, staff clean all dirty surfaces (of all equipment used that day) with soap and water, or appropriate cleaners, then disinfect all surfaces using products that meet EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19 and properly dispose of the used wipes in a trash receptacle. Ensure staff follow procedures included on chemical labels including the required amount of time to remain wet for each solution. In any case, disinfecting the equipment prior to subsequent uses by different individuals is required

1.3 Additional Resources

1.3.1 <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

2. For boats, between each launch, sanitize the vessel interiors and any areas on the exterior where multiple people will be present using an EPA approved disinfectant (or approved alternative disinfectant) if needed. Wipe down all entry/exit ports, seats, railings, signaling devices, attachments and other common equipment that people will frequently use and/or touch using EPA-approved disinfectants against COVID-19 as stated above.

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2.1 Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) will be assigned to individuals for use.

If someone is suspected to have COVID-19 in the work area

1. Staff will follow recommendations from DEP's Safety Committee.