

Proposed Research Relaunching Guidelines for UMES Vessels

1. All operations on UMES research vessels will be considered optional until further notice. Individuals who do not feel comfortable participating in these activities due to concerns of personal health will not be required to participate. The following accommodations will be made to assist students to reach completion of their degrees:
 - a. Where possible and reasonable, samples may be collected by other personnel and provided to the student for laboratory analysis. Details of this accommodation will be arranged on a case-by-case basis through communication with Drs. Chigbu and Sexton and Captain Daniels depending on the ability of other researchers to collect the samples without interfering with their own sampling. If this accommodation is to last more than one month, it must be approved in writing by the student's research committee to indicate that it does not significantly lessen the rigor of the student's research-based educational program.
 - b. Where it is impossible or not approved by the committee to provide samples to a student who chooses not to participate in field operations, the courses of action outlined below are available to the student. It should be noted that requests to extend the duration of funding will be considered, but approval will be dependent upon availability of finite funds and subject to restrictions determined by the funding agency. Such extensions should be considered a last resort.
 - i. If existing samples will be sufficient to complete an analysis that satisfies degree requirements, the student, with approval of the committee, may move forward without additional samples.
 - ii. The student may delay sampling until conditions change, being mindful of how this will impact time to completion.
 - iii. The student may reimagine the project to be more laboratory-based in order to avoid the need for field sampling.
2. Safety considerations: we recognize that many of the safety considerations that typically apply to laboratory environments are not practical in a field setting. The following precautions will be enacted in order to make field operations as safe as possible.
 - a. Distancing:
 - i. On board vessels: All individuals are encouraged to maintain as much distance from others as possible at all times on the boat. Because of the small size of the boat, and the nature of some gear, it is not possible to maintain 6 ft. between individuals at all times. When multiple people must work together closely to operate gear, they should maintain as much space as possible and limit time spent in close proximity to what is absolutely necessary. We will also limit the number of individuals onboard to the number necessary to operate gear safely.
 - ii. University vehicles: No more than two individuals should occupy university vehicles at one time. If more than one individual is in the vehicle both must wear a mask at all times, and windows must be open. If the university provides guidelines on vehicle use that are more restrictive than this, the more restrictive guidelines must be followed. The CREST

truck will be equipped with disinfecting spray and paper towels to wipe down touch surfaces before and after each use. The driver should dispose of used paper towels in a trash receptacle outside of the truck after each trip.

- b. Hygiene and sanitation:
 - i. Disinfecting surfaces: The truck and boat will each be equipped with disinfectant spray and paper towels. Touch surfaces (steering wheel, handles and rails, shared field equipment like YSI) should be wiped down at least at the beginning and end of each trip. Researchers will be responsible for collecting and disposing of used paper towels at the end of the field day.
 - ii. Hand hygiene: Hand sanitizer will be provided on the boat and truck and should be used frequently.
- c. Personal protective equipment:
 - i. Face coverings are encouraged. We recognize that it may be impossible to keep traditional disposable masks securely in place in the windy conditions of a moving boat and very difficult to keep in place for the duration of a field trip, particularly in very hot weather. For this reason, face covering will not be mandated at all times. They will be encouraged and left to the best judgment of each research participant. The purpose of a face covering is to protect those around you from contagions that you may not know you have. We trust that our researchers will choose to afford one another this courtesy whenever possible and especially during activities that require close proximity. Other types of face coverings are also welcome including commercially available or homemade cloth masks, scarves, or gators. These re-usable face coverings must be washed (machine laundered or hand washed with soap and water) between successive field trips.
 - ii. Eye protection is always encouraged and may include safety glasses, sunglasses, or corrective lenses.
 - iii. Gloves: latex or nitrile gloves are encouraged. We recognize that gloves may not be compatible with the handling of all gear types, and use will be left to the discretion of each researcher. We remind everyone that gloves are only as useful as your commitment to not touching your face while wearing them.
 - iv. Disposal: Each researcher is responsible to maintain custody of his or her own disposable PPE items until the end of the trip and to dispose of them properly. They should not be left to sit around the boat for others to contact.
3. Contact logging: As always, we will continue to maintain a list of individuals present on each boat day along with contact information for emergency use. This log is maintained by Captain Daniels. We request that you notify Captain Daniels if you develop symptoms (fever, cough) or receive a positive Covid-19 test result within 14 days of a field trip. He

