

UNLV Restarting Research

Safe Practices for Conducting Field Studies

These guidelines are subject to change to align with directives from the Governor, NSHE UNLV Chancellor, and UNLV President.

Principal Investigator _____

College _____

Department _____

To minimize risk to public health while performing fieldwork, students, staff and faculty are expected to adhere to public health practices to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

This form outlines the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for fieldwork that will be required to ensure safe practices. The SOP will focus on safety while conducting fieldwork off campus, and will be defined by the Principal Investigator (PI) before work can be initiated.

The Principal Investigator is responsible, to the best of their ability, to promote and enforce acceptable public health behaviors and provide SOPs that document the policies and procedures that will be utilized to ensure safe practices.

PIs must develop their own SOPs that outline the following safe research practices:

- Describe how exposure to COVID-19 will be mitigated through social distancing guidelines professionally and personally in the off-campus settings. What are the social distancing metrics being utilized?
- Describe how the team will be transported to the site.

- Describe the accommodation and provisions including food and water required for each team member based on the number of days in the field. Confirm the quantities and maintain documents outlining these basic needs for each team member.
- Define appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) required for the proposed research (e.g., face coverings, gloves, etc.) while in the field. If gloves will not be utilized please define proper handwashing practices and frequency.
- Is PPE required currently available in sufficient supply to support the research SOP requirements? What are the possible limitations in PPE that might be encountered?
- How will the health of research team members and research participants be monitored? What screening procedures will be utilized? How will access be limited if a researcher or participant develops or displays symptoms of COVID-19 including but not limited to fever, tiredness, and dry cough? As a rule, researchers and participants will not participate in face-to-face research activities if their temperature exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Describe procedures for cleaning and disinfecting equipment or objects shared between research participants.
- The PI will ensure all team members have been trained and provided with guidelines regarding safe conduct in the field, how communication will be handled, the check-in schedule, and the overall research plans/goals for the trip.

A PI's failure to establish and follow the SOPs outlining safety guidelines could be detrimental to the team and public health efforts that could impact the ability to perform research at UNLV.

All researcher team members must acknowledge and sign a copy of the SOP prior to conducting research. The PI will provide a list of researchers with signed SOPs to their Department Chair and Dean prior to research being resumed.

Please provide a request to resume research that includes the following:

- **Location of research activities.**
- **Names and titles (i.e., postdoc, graduate student, etc.) of all research team members that will be participating in any research activities.**
- **A signed SOP document for each research team member.**

The following signatures are required to resume research activities.

PI Signature

Date

Please route all supporting documents and this form to the Chair and Dean of your department and college for their signatures.

Department Chair Signature

Date

Dean Signature

Date