

Robinson Forest Operations under COVID-19

7/27/2020

(Modification to the UK Research Farm Operations Under Covid-19 guidance issued 3/25/2020)

Distribution to Robinson Forest Staff (RCARS and DFNR)

The University of Kentucky has responded to the recent COVID-19 outbreak by developing policies that emphasize social distancing and safety of employees. University research policy emphasizes downsizing research efforts **where feasible** and stressing social distancing for continuing research efforts.

CAFE has instituted COVID-19 Policies for Farm Operations. A number of the conditions that are encountered at Robinson Forest have characteristics similar to many farm operations and workers. Specifically, the need for on-going work with the hydrology monitoring network and forest infrastructure to maintain the research enterprise. Therefore the following Policies apply to Robinson Forest staff (RCARS and DFNR employees).

NOTE: Robinson Forest Lodging and visitor guidelines are found in the FNR COVID-19 Policy-Guidelines document in the FNR Shared Folder google folder or see Jeff Stringer, FNR Chair for copies.

1.0 General Policy

1.1 The primary goal of this guidance policy is the health and safety of our individual staff.

1.2 The primary defense against infectious viral spread is personal hygiene, social distancing and shelter in-place. To ensure continuity of operations, where possible, regular duty includes a combination of: 1) work at home, and 2) only essential on-site work, and 3) work at safe distances.

1.3 Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

1.4 Most research teams are relatively small and the majority of the workload allows for proper social distancing. If a necessary task requires two, or more, people to complete, they will implement safe distancing. If projects involving a large number of people occur, schedules will be developed to help stagger work assignments and work locations for social distancing. Where job duties allow, team members are encouraged to work remotely.

1.5 Instructions for field and facilities work will be communicated by the unit's supervisor.

1.6 If assistance is needed from RCARS including the WUC, utilize the work order system to ensure appropriate personnel are available and social distancing is followed.

1.7 All users should sign in according to 3.3.

2.0 Safe Distancing, Handwashing and Disinfection

2.1 Please do not enter buildings unless necessary.

2.2 All persons meeting or otherwise congregating inside buildings need to maintain 6 ft social distancing and wear masks. Wearing of personal masks is encouraged. If available disposable masks will be provided for those not having access to their personal masks.

2.3 Individuals working in buildings by themselves do not need to wear a mask.

2.4 Traveling in the forest - Vehicle capacity should be at 50% and everyone wear a mask with the exception of open air vehicles, like side by sides, where two individuals can be on the same vehicle wearing masks.

2.5 In forest and camp activities - If congregating outside, closer than 6 ft, masks are required. If maintaining distancing greater than 6 ft masks are not required.

2.6 All shared equipment including radios, vehicles, etc. will be wiped down after use.

2.7 All research teams should supplement typical janitorial cleaning with additional sanitation of work spaces and equipment.

Lodging

2.8 Overnight sleeping assignments (cabins/rooms) will be made by Neva Williams to facilitate social distancing requirements. It is REQUIRED that you abide by these assignments. Two will be allowed to stay in the separate bedrooms in the technician cabin. The technician cabin, faculty cabin, and female cabin will be used to disperse individuals so that everyone has in-cabin kitchen and bathrooms. Cleaning will be done between visits. If someone that is or has visited is known to be a confirmed COVID-19 case or has had exposure cleaning and disinfecting should be completed according to CDC guidelines, see APPENDIX III CDC COVID-19 Guidelines or cleaning and disinfecting after a confirmed case or exposure.

2.9 Notify staff when you are leaving.

3.0 Facility Maintenance and Usage

3.1 All users including those in groups need to sign in, using appropriate forms, to provide assistance if contract tracing is needed. In-sign forms are located in the visitor KIOSK, dining hall, and office.

3.2 All farm facility use should be coordinated by the supervisor of the space. This includes daily and periodically scheduled activities.

3.3 In facilities where multiple groups and PIs have ongoing operations, coordinate with other groups to ensure appropriate social distancing.

4.0 Travel

Off Forest Travel - For personnel who must travel in-state to perform their duties, social distancing guidelines will be followed. If an overnight stay is required, hotels with a good reputation for cleaning

and disinfection protocols should be used. Minimize travel to distant research sites and associated hotel stays as much as possible.

In Forest Travel – see Section 2