



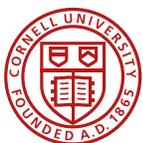
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SHOALS MARINE LABORATORY SUMMER 2022 COVID SAFETY PLAN

Overview

Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML) is committed to the health and safety of our community. In this document, we outline the procedures and policies SML will implement during our 2022 operating season to maximize well-being in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The Memorandum of Understanding between Cornell University (Cornell) and University of New Hampshire (UNH) for the operations of SML states that UNH is responsible for the administrative oversight, and thus, this plan engages UNH COVID-19 resources to aid SML's COVID-19 planning. Throughout this plan, we adhere to the best practices used by our parent institutions and adapt as necessary to meet the needs of our island community and the fluidity of state policies and regulations.

Our strategy for the 2022 summer operating season centers around testing and a community approach to public health and well-being. We understand that the COVID landscape is changing rapidly, and we will continue to update our operations to match UNH and Cornell practices and adapt as necessary to meet the needs of our island community. We have written this plan based on the assumption that we cannot require vaccines, the use of personal protective equipment, or regular COVID-19 testing within our island community. However, we will do our best to encourage it.



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Pre-arrival Testing

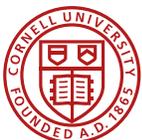
All participants should screen themselves for COVID-19 prior to their travel to SML's dock in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The preferred testing method is a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) diagnostic test. We recommend scheduling your test 7 days prior to your program start date to ensure adequate time to receive test results. Please plan ahead to ensure you can obtain a test. If you test positive, please follow CDC guidelines regarding [isolation after a positive test](#), including a 5-day isolation period. The University of New Hampshire also recommends testing every other day with a rapid/antigen kit at the end of your 5-day isolation period to confirm your negative status. SML requests that you contact us immediately (shoals.lab@unh.edu) if you test positive so that we can assist with any changes in your academic/programmatic schedule.

IMPORTANT: If you had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, please DO NOT take a PCR test. Instead, obtain a negative antigen test 24 hours prior to your travel date to SML's dock in Portsmouth, NH. If you test positive, stay home, and please contact SML (shoals.lab@unh.edu) as soon as possible.

COVID-19 testing at SML's dock

SML will provide both PCR and rapid antigen testing at our dock. PCR testing will detect the presence of the COVID-19 virus's DNA material and is effective even at low viral loads. Antigen tests respond to proteins found on the surface of the virus and are most effective at higher viral loads. As outlined above, only participants who have not had COVID-19 during the 90-day period prior to your arrival at SML's dock will be allowed to participate in the PCR testing program.

This test will serve as a critical screening measure needed to keep our island population safe from COVID-19. **If you test positive via rapid antigen testing at our dock, we will test you a second time to confirm. If the second test is again positive, you will not be allowed on the boat.** Be prepared to enact your personal evacuation plan and take care to reduce your risks before your arrival at SML.



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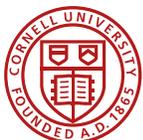
Personal Evacuation Plan

All overnight visitors to SML will be required to provide an Individual COVID-19 Evacuation Plan (see our forms and waivers on our Getting to Shoals page). SML has limited quarantine housing available. Because of this, any participant who tests positive while at SML will be evacuated from Appledore Island. SML will provide quarantine housing for a maximum of 24 hours on island after which time SML will return you to the mainland.

- **For participants over the age of 18 who test positive**, this plan must include emergency contact information for a primary and secondary person who agrees to be prepared to assist you in the event of your evacuation from Appledore Island. In the event your emergency contact is unavailable, SML will assist you with hotel reservations in the Portsmouth, NH area. Costs associated with any hotel stay will be the responsibility of the participant.
- **For minors who test positive**, this plan will include emergency contact information and a required signature of the student's parent/legal guardian acknowledging they understand they are responsible for arranging a private pickup from SML's Portsmouth dock within 24 hours after receiving a positive test result.

Please note, *everyone* heading to the island will need to be dropped off and picked up at SML's dock in Portsmouth, NH. It is recommended that people dropping participants off at the dock do not leave the area until the participant is fully checked in and approved for departure. Please reference the [Getting to Shoals](#) page for comprehensive travel information. Failure to provide all the pre-arrival documentation and agreement to island COVID-19 procedures may result in the participant being excluded from travel to Appledore Island.

Island-based COVID-19 Mitigation Procedures



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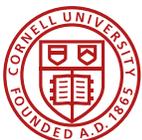
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Mask Regulations – At this time (and subject to change with changing conditions), SML does not require face coverings in indoor spaces. Given the recent rise in positive COVID-19 cases both nationally and locally here in the Northeastern U.S., SML encourages all individuals to wear masks while indoors. The choice to continue masking, even when not required, is a personal one, and no one should be made to feel uncomfortable because of their choice. For program participants that are immunocompromised and/or are uncomfortable with current mask-wearing requirements to please review [CDC's recommendations for individuals](#).

For people travelling to SML via public transportation (air, bus, taxi, etc.), SML also strongly encourages you to follow [CDC guidelines related to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Those guidelines include:

- **Make sure you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before travel.**
- Check the status of your destination's COVID-19 before traveling. The [CDC's COVID-19 by County](#) tracking system provides up-to-date information.
- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is recommended in indoor areas of public transportation (including airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports).
- Do not travel if you have COVID-19 symptoms, tested positive for COVID-19, are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test, or had close contact with a person with COVID-19 and are recommended to quarantine.

Sanitation and Cleaning - All shared facilities (bathrooms, showers, dining, etc.) will be sanitized by SML staff using EPA-approved disinfectants. Communal laboratory equipment will be disinfected by teaching assistants or researchers, with oversight and instruction by SML's Lab Coordinator. Sanitation of classrooms and laboratories during changeover periods between users will be completed by SML staff, informed by SML's Programs Coordinator. Dining areas will be sanitized by SML staff after each meal period, following protocols consistent with best practices set forward by the Maine Center for Disease Control Health Inspection Program (Maine CDC HIP). Ethanol based hand sanitizer stations will be installed in all residential buildings, classrooms, and



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laboratories. Additionally, portable supplies of ethanol-based sanitizer will be available for use in the field and aboard SML vessels. Cleaning and sanitation of residential areas will be completed by SML's staff, informed by the SML Island Coordinator.

- Dining - SML's dining hall and commercial kitchen operations are licensed by the State of Maine Health Inspection Program (HIP) and undergo routine inspection. Handwashing protocols outlined by the Maine CDC HIP will be followed by foodservice staff and by participants prior to dining. SML's commercial dishwasher utilizes bleach (sodium hypochlorite) injection in the final disinfection cycle.
- Housing, Restrooms, and Showers - Maximum room occupancy will be two. Participants will bring their own bed linens and pillow. SML will provide cleaning/sanitizing supplies for participants to maintain their personal spaces. Disinfection of shower facilities will be completed by SML custodial staff on a regular basis.

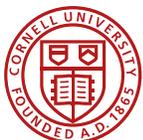
Testing and Screening Procedures

Rapid Testing - Antigen test kits, pulse oximeters, and non-contact thermometers will be maintained for use by SML staff to rapidly assess participants on Appledore Island and at our mainland dock facilities under the guidance of UNH Health and Wellness.

Communication, Isolation, and Positive Cases Procedures

Health Assessment and Care - Decisions regarding patient care will be made in consultation with UNH Health and Wellness, utilizing the testing resources at UNH. SML staff will facilitate on-island assessments under the guidance of UNH Health & Wellness.

Island Isolation Housing – SML will maintain housing for the purposes of confirmed, suspected, or presumed COVID positive patient isolation. This space will also serve as



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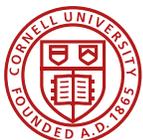
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the 24-hour waiting space for those positive cases who are departing the island. This space will have their own entrance from outside and will be isolated from the remainder of the building by a closed door with signage. This space includes a separate restroom. Meals will be delivered by SML staff in a manner that prioritizes staff safety and participant needs.

Individual COVID-19 Evacuation Plan Use – This plan, submitted before island arrival, will be invoked if evacuation of a positive COVID-19 test is confirmed. COVID-19 positive persons will leave the island within 24 hours of confirmation.

Hospitalization - In the event that hospitalization is determined to be necessary, patients will be transported to New Castle, NH aboard an SML vessel, and then via ambulance to Portsmouth Hospital. Life threatening emergencies will be evacuated directly from the island by helicopter using Life Flight of Maine.

Program Cancellation and Individual Expulsion - SML reserves the right to discontinue programs and/or remove participants from the island at its discretion if conduct or viral transmission rates warrant. Individual failure to comply with the SML COVID-19 procedures, policies, and operations is grounds for immediate dismissal from SML programs and island residency. We will invoke the action steps outlined in the Individual COVID-19 Evacuation Plan. Program refund policies are on our website.



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