

Crab Team COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

*This document is effective July 29th, 2020, and supersedes the initial “Crab Team Social Distancing” document shared in April 2020.

All Crab Team activities are purely elective. If at any time you do not feel comfortable or cannot meet the required responsibilities, you do not *need* to participate. Your safety is of the utmost importance, so please assess your situation before each time you opt in to participate.

The University of Washington requires that these guidelines and best practices are followed in their entirety by all Crab Team volunteers until further notice, regardless of site location (county). Our individual actions affect the health of our communities, so we are all in this together. We also rely on the good faith of those who provide access to sites and support for our program, so we’re doing our best to demonstrate that we take these risks very seriously and are doing the best we can to protect them. If you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to reach out to us.

Requirements:

1. Practice physical distancing

- All volunteers must strive to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and those outside their household as much as possible.
- Volunteers from different households may not carpool, and must take separate vehicles.

2. Follow appropriate procedures when sick

- If you’ve been in contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of your monitoring activities, do not participate in Crab Team activities.
- If you are sick, you must stay home. Stay home even if you have mild symptoms of illness. Anyone with symptoms should get testing right away. Take precautions to avoid getting others sick.
- If symptoms of illness are experienced while in the field, the volunteer must leave the field and notify Crab Team staff. Additionally, if you experience COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of Crab Team activity, you must notify Crab Team staff. You can email either Amy Linhart (alinhart@uw.edu) or the Crab Team account (crabteam@uw.edu). Volunteers will then have the choice of either reporting to the UW EH&S Employee Health Center directly or having Crab Team staff act on your behalf. To report on your own, you will call 206-685-1026 (press 0 to talk to a live person) for a public health follow up.

3. Practice good hygiene

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If water is not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth and your mask and glasses.

4. Clean and disinfect surfaces

- UW volunteers are required to clean and disinfect their field equipment regularly. Review best practices below for specific recommendations.

5. Use required PPE

- Face coverings that cover your nose and mouth are required **any time** you are doing Crab Team work with anyone outside your household and in areas where encounters with visitors are likely. Wearing a face covering does not replace the need to stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
- All volunteers are expected to bring the following items into the field for each sampling period to ensure the safety of their team. Washington Sea Grant is committed to supporting you in this effort and will provide you with any materials that you may need to complete this 'kit.' If you need any of the following items, please fill out this request form and make sure to press "submit." PPE request form: <https://forms.gle/vZLNHRd9LRJJGtUS8>.
- Please coordinate your requests with your team to make sure nothing is duplicated or overlooked. Staff will be in touch with you directly.
 - Masks for each participant
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Disinfecting wipes
 - First aid kit
 - Thermometer

6. Limit participation to approved Crab Team volunteers

- All participants in surveys must have completed an official Crab Team training. As is always the case, only these individuals should handle data or animals.
- As much as possible, reduce the number of volunteers participating in each monitoring session to the minimum number required to complete the work. Please also avoid inviting any non-participants (friends, family) to the site during sampling at this time.
- All volunteers involved in field sampling must have received a letter of critical designation from WSG director, Russell Callender.

7. Complete the Crab Team COVID-19 Safety Training video and daily attestations

1. Watch the Crab Team COVID-19 Safety Training video.
2. Complete daily online attestation before each field sampling. Crab Team captains and scheduling gurus are encouraged to remind folks to complete these attestations when sending group reminders. Volunteer attestation form: <https://forms.gle/AwrW5TjWbubZyBm16>.

Best Practices:

While each group has their own general routines and culture, we recognize that there are several "pinch points" in the protocols, where many groups tend to be in closer proximity. We've tried to provide suggested work-arounds here. You may come up with others that work better for you. There is no single, perfect answer as to how to do this, but please remember, ***your team must figure out how to conduct sampling while maintaining social distancing. If you are unable to achieve this at any point, please do not sample.***

Overarching Best Practices

- Assume that everyone could have COVID-19, including yourself, and use appropriate precautions. Stay home if you are concerned about putting yourself, a family member or other site users at risk.
- Reduce the number of participants to the minimum required to do the work.
- Consider wearing disposable gloves during sampling (if you don't already).
- If you bring food to a monitoring site, do not share it with other crew members. (Hand hygiene before and after any food consumption is critical.)
- Restrooms should be accessed in locations with as little public use as possible. (Hand hygiene before and after any restroom use is critical.)

Gear Safety Recommendations

- Sanitize handheld gear (calipers, clipboard, quadrat, cards, bins) with gel, alcohol or wipes before and after use. In most cases soap and water wash will also work (i.e., clean the equipment without damaging it). Continue to clean trapping and field gear as recommended in your original training and allow to dry fully between uses.
- Between sampling efforts (between months), allow the gear to remain untouched.
- Divide tasks so that only people from one household are handling gear for both sampling days. For instance, "silo" gear as follows or in an arrangement that works best for you:
 - Trapping Gear: Traps, bait, jars, stakes
 - Bins: Bins, photo ID cards, calipers (if you have several sets, divide up to multiple households)
 - Transect Gear: Quadrat, rope, percent cover cards
 - Data: Clipboard, data sheets, ID guide

Protocol Recommendations

- **Sorting critters in the molt survey or counting bins:** Instead of huddling around a central bin, or pile of molts, the collection is divided up across participating group members, and communicated to the data recorder. This might look like:
 - ***Molt Survey:*** Each person brings their own small container or cup to collect molts separately, then separately identifies the molts they collected. If you have molts you are uncertain about, take photos and keep the molts. We can help ID them for you!
 - ***Trapping:***
 - Person 1 retrieves the trap and dumps it into the bin with scale bar, adds photo ID card and takes photo (those of you who use people to shade the glare on bins, remember to avoid being too close).
 - Person 2 handling the scale bin divides the organisms from the scale bin into several separate counting bins (each household brings their own to use).
 - Each household uses their own calipers to measure and sort the organisms in their counting bin for that trap. This will take clear and patient communication with the data recorder.
- **Identifying molt or live specimens:** If you have a live specimen or molt that you can't ID, use a small container (with water if necessary) to set the critter aside and allow members to take turns examining it closely.
- **Estimating quadrat cover:** Typically, we recommend groups huddle around a quadrat to reconcile their estimates of percent cover. Do this in sequence, taking turns allowing each person to get a good perspective while staying 6 feet apart. The rope, quadrat and percent cover cards should be handled by just one person in this scenario.
- **Validating the data sheet:** It's best practice (even amongst staff at HQ!) to have someone else take a close look at your data sheet, checking for possible omissions, confusion, legibility, etc. We all

forget to circle substrate type from time to time. Having someone review your sheet before submission (ideally before you leave the site) is a great way to save time on the data submission side. Rather than huddling around the clipboard, the data recorder sets the clipboard down and allows space for a reviewer to take a close look OR take a photo and email the draft data sheet to your teammate.

As always, we definitely welcome other tips, tricks and questions on problem areas you might have about troubleshooting the protocol. We'd love to share them in our mini-newsletters!

Crab Team Cares

Caring for our communities means being supportive of each individual's decision about how they can best protect themselves and each other. We support your decision to opt out or set boundaries on your participation. Decide what is best for you, and we ask that you do the same for your team members and that this may change on a daily or monthly basis.

Resources

You can educate yourself about the risks of COVID-19 and make sure you are aware of local, state and federal guidelines.

Find local health authorities:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions>

State guidelines:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

Federal guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Additional resources provided by the University of Washington:

- [General Coronavirus Prevention Under Stay Home - Stay Healthy Order](#)
- [Safer Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Strategies to Reduce and Prevent COVID-19 Transmission](#)
- [UW Stay Healthy, Huskies Toolkit](#)
- [Working during COVID-19](#)
- [University of Washington Guidance for Symptom monitoring for COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources](#)
- [COVID-19 Chemical Disinfectant Safety Info](#)
- [COVID-19 Prevention: Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols](#)
- [Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19: Facts and Resources](#)
- [FAQs about Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [University of Washington COVID-19 Prevention Plan for the Workplace](#)
- [Face coverings, masks and respirators](#)