

Crab Team Social Distancing

First and foremost, educate yourself about the risks 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>

If you choose to continue monitoring, we expect you to follow social distancing guidelines throughout your monitoring activities. Below are some tips for how to successfully survey while practicing social distancing. Although many of you participate with family members, most of the concerns and tips below about social distancing pertain to coming into contact with people *outside* your household.

General guidelines:

- ***Stay home if you feel sick or if anyone in your household is sick.***
- ***Stay home if you are concerned about putting yourself, a family member or other site users at risk.***
- ***If you begin to feel unwell while in the field, go home immediately.***
- ***Assume everyone you see is infected, including yourself, and use appropriate precautions.***
- Reduce the number of participants to the minimum required to do the work.
- If you normally carpool with members outside your household, drive separately. If this will be a barrier with the site (parking capacity, etc.) please let us know. Check in with site contacts to verify your plans or ask Crab Team HQ to do so.
- A [cloth face covering](#) is recommended, particularly when sampling with others outside of your household. (Hand hygiene before and after using ANY face covering is critical.)
- Consider wearing disposable gloves during sampling (if you don't already).
- 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 per recommendations and allow to dry fully between uses.
- 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
- Keep a six-foot (2 meters on the measuring tape/rope) distance between yourself and others outside your household at all times.
- Between sampling efforts (between months), allow the gear to remain untouched.
- 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.)

Specific Recommendations:

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.***

- **Sorting critters in the molt survey or counting bins:** Thankfully, April is usually our lowest abundance month. 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 tupperware 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 in order not to confuse or overwhelm them, since it’s likely that everyone calling out different numbers/species could be hard to track!
- **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.