



# FIELD WORK EXPECTATIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Updated July 29, 2020. The most recent version will always be posted on the [USask COVID updates page](#). Please confirm this is the latest.

To ensure field work is done safely, USask researchers require approval by their Dean or Associate Dean, using the [“Request for Research Activity” process](#) (on the online request form, when asked for the “Primary Building/Work Site”, simply select “Other” for field work).

## General considerations

All field team members are expected to strictly follow [provincial health directives](#).

As supervisors, principal investigators are responsible for developing an appropriate field work safety plan and ensuring all field team members are fully informed of the details of that plan and strictly following it.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, please incorporate the following practices in your field work safety plan:

- Physical distancing of two metres from others. To maintain appropriate distancing, crew size may need to be lower than in past field seasons.
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer, especially upon arrival and departure, after coughing or sneezing, after bathroom use, and before and after food prep and eating.
- Routine sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces and objects. This includes identifying all shared equipment and specifying when and how it will be sanitized.
- Strict requirement that field team members will follow a 14-day self-isolation protocol if they have are returning or arriving from outside the country or if they experience any symptoms (in the case of symptoms, they should also utilize the Government of Saskatchewan’s [self-assessment tool](#)).

## Local communities

Some communities and regions are closed to outsiders at this time. These restrictions must be respected.

Field work safety plans must carefully explain how interaction with local communities will be avoided and how food, housing and fuel needs will be handled to minimize in-person interactions. When this is not possible, the field work must be modified or delayed.

## Travel

One person per vehicle should apply whenever possible. In cases where vehicles must be shared, the field work safety plan should specify how risk will be mitigated, including self-monitoring prior to the trip, maintaining safe distances in the vehicle, wearing masks for the duration of the trip, and following stringent cleaning protocols.

In situations where airplane travel is necessary, field team members must follow the enhanced health and safety protocols required by airlines.

## Accommodation

Accommodation should be arranged to minimize potential interaction with local communities. To support physical distancing, team members should have separate accommodation. If separate rooms in the same accommodation are necessary, the field work safety plan should account for sanitization of common spaces.

## Food

Food should be prepared by only one person or separately by each individual. Each person should bring their own cup and containers from home. No sharing of kitchen dishware/utensils should occur unless an adequate means of sanitization (such as a dishwasher) is available.