

Field Research Guidance

ASU Knowledge Enterprise has developed guidelines to increase field research activities. Increase of research activity is occurring in a measured, phased approach. For more information, review the guidelines and policies in the **Research Intensification Plan**.

To ramp up field research activities, responsible faculty members will need to **Create and submit a safety plan**

All field research must comply with, ASU Travel Guidelines located in FAQ, CDC Travel Health Notices and U.S. Department of State Travel guidelines. This will be the guiding principle of planning and implementation for increasing field research activities.

Field research activities may be performed by following the additional guidance below:

Prior to Travel

Principal Investigators/Researchers should -

- Verify field location is open to public access and complies with current U.S. government and ASU travel guidelines
- Training and permissions are completed by research team (e.g. National Parks, consent from landowners, IRB, IACUC, etc.)
- Ensure research complies with ASU's policy regarding Native American Tribal Consultations <https://researchintegrity.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2018-04/Guidance-Native-American-Tribal-Consultation.pdf>
- Perform self-assessment of their health, and not depart for the field if they show Covid-19 symptoms.
- Provide guidance on what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to use and how to use it.
- Register travel via Concur <https://cfo.asu.edu/myasutrip>
- Develop an enhanced cleaning/disinfection protocol for any shared bathrooms, kitchen facilities, or shared equipment.
- Develop a communication plan to:
 - Keep a regular lookout for updated ASU guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://eooss.asu.edu/health/announcements/coronavirus>
 - In case someone becomes symptomatic for COVID-19 (e.g. nearest clinic, phone #s, hours of operations, etc.)
 - Contact information of PI and researchers

During Field Research

Principal Investigators/Researchers should -

- Modify activities to maintain spatial distancing and wear cloth face covering, when appropriate
- Ensure adequate water and soap for handwashing
- Promote hygiene: wash hands for 20 seconds and wipe down surfaces often, cough into sleeve, dispose of tissues
- Bring extra hand soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes
- Carry a thermometer, Tylenol in first aid kit
- Maintain robust communication to receive updates or get assistance; maintain a frequent check in schedule
- Carry a written emergency plan; consider distance to medical care and limited medical services/support for other injuries or illness
- For overnight trips, ensure extra lodging is available to maintain social distancing, i.e. single rooms, single tents
- Even for small groups, discuss transportation options to maintain social distancing; avoid public transportation
- Continue to monitor precautions and maintain flexibility to alter plans at any time, self-isolate, or return home
- Shared gear (e.g. GPS units, flashlights, etc.) must be disinfected before providing to a fellow researcher in the field
- Follow local, regional and federal guidelines for quarantines.
- Suspend activities and be able to isolate if they test positive or become debilitated and are unable to care for themselves

When to suspend or postpone field research activities

Principal Investigators/Researchers should consider -

- Field location has decided to reduce or suspend response actions at particular sites for the following or similar situations:
 - State, tribal, or local health officials have requested particular site operations or types of operations that would pertain to particular sites be suspended.

- Any site workers have tested positive for or exhibited symptoms of COVID-19.
- Any sites where there may be close interaction with high risk groups or those under quarantine, such as work inside homes.
- Sites where contractor field personnel are not able to work due to state, tribal, or local travel restrictions or medical quarantine.
- Other sites where social distancing is not possible.

Post Field Research

Principal Investigators/Researchers should consider –

- Continued following up with one another on health and well-being
- Disinfect any equipment used