

Approval of Field Research during COVID-19

This assessment should be completed if you are conducting field research of any sort. No field activity should take place without proper COVID-19 risk assessment.

Some types of fieldwork have started or continued if they successfully made it through the decision tree below.

All researchers with on-going or imminent fieldwork are required to:

1. Submit a field safety plan to your Department, as per normal requirements.
2. Assess if the proposed activity is likely to be acceptable in the current COVID-19 pandemic, using the decision-tree below.
3. Complete the online resumption of research activity permission form on the Faculty of Sciences webpage – your specific COVID-19 safety plan can be pasted into a box on this form (*see below for required information).
4. Complete the online COVID-19 Awareness and Safe Return to Work training module on Canvas.
5. As appropriate, contact communities near your research site(s) to see if they can still provide adequate emergency response support and if visitors will still be allowed. At present, many First Nation and remote communities, and all three Territories have asked researchers to stay away. All field research activities should be in accordance with the current requirements determined by local municipalities and territories/provinces. All onsite and offsite field activities should follow the provincial/federal directives and laws.
6. If a field project is deemed to be safe, fieldworkers should monitor their temperature and any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days prior to the start of the project.
7. Perform [a daily self-assessment](#) and keep a record for all members of the field team. All recommended measures (appropriate physical distancing, hand washing, etc.) need to be observed at all times (see below). Should any of the field researcher show any symptoms of COVID19, all field activities should cease and medical help should be sought; in these cases, field researchers should also notify their supervisor(s).

*Required Information

- Members of Field Team
- Location and Duration/Dates of Field Work
- Additional Contact Information for Field Team
- Brief (one paragraph) description of planned field activities
- Summary of Decision Tree outcomes
- Specific COVID-19 mitigations while in the field (in addition to daily self-assessment)

DECISION TREE

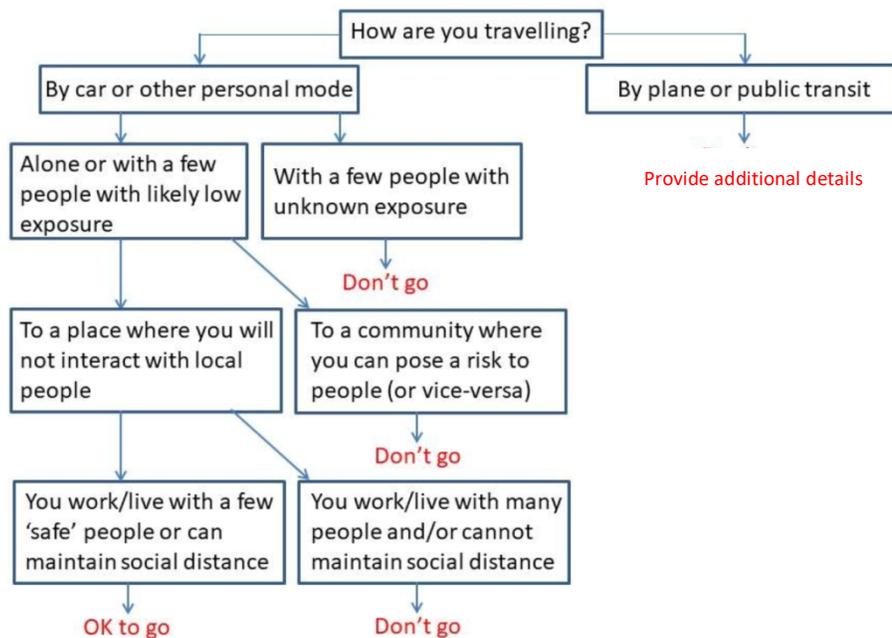
If you answer **YES** to any of the following questions, you may not go to the field.

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| YES NO | Does field work involve travel outside of Canada? |
| YES NO | Are you experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, travelled out of country or have been in contact with someone who has had COVID-19? |
| YES NO | Has the Government of Canada, Province, Park, Territory, Indigenous or Remote Community restricted visitors or non-essential travel to your field location? |

If you answer **NO** to any of the following questions, you may not go to the field.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| YES NO | From the location of your field research, are you able to access Emergency Medical Services without placing a burden upon the community? |
| YES NO | While in the field, are you able to adhere to current and access any new directives from PublicHealthAuthorities or the University for prevention control? |
| YES NO | While in the field can you practice physical distancing from those with unknown exposure? |
| YES NO | In preparation for field season, can you get the training you need to control your other hazards associated with your field work? |

Fieldwork decision tree



Rules for Traveling Together in the Same Field Vehicle

- Only one driver and one passenger are permitted in a field vehicle, unless all members of the team meet the requirements for reduced distancing measures (e.g. members of same household).
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies should be kept in the vehicle at all times and must be visible to both the driver and the passenger.
- Following each trip, both the driver and the passenger-accessible surfaces including interior and exterior door handles, window and comfort controls, seat belts, both the driver and passenger seating areas as well as all field equipment used must be cleaned thoroughly with disinfecting cleaning products.
- Both the driver and the passenger(s) should use personal protective equipment when they are physically interacting inside the vehicle.
- Any field vehicle used by a person or persons who demonstrate COVID-19 Symptoms including cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat, should not be used until the entire vehicle is thoroughly sanitized.

Other Considerations

- Where possible, field researchers should have enough food/water/camp equipment/fuel so as reduce trips to towns to get supplies.
- If camping, ensure you are aware of any site/facility restrictions; individuals require their own camping gear (including individual tents, unless considered members of the same household) and possibly their own cooking gear.
- All researchers must have a means of communication to contact emergency medical services (cell phone, radio, satellite device).
- Researchers should be aware of road or boat access restrictions through Indigenous communities and obey these restrictions.
- If a researcher develops symptoms of COVID-19 while in the field and has contact with other field researchers, all field researchers in that group must return home and self-isolate for the required number of days before returning to the field.