

Safe Work Plan			
COVID-19:		Freshwater Ecology Field School	
Created by	Brian Round	Approving Supervisor	Marc Patenaude
Created Date	4/9/21	School	SENRS
Applies to the following:			
Program		Course Code	
Fish and Wildlife			
Freshwater Ecology Field School		APST 147	

Overview

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a new type of coronavirus. Public Health Ontario advises the virus is spread predominantly through respiratory droplets produced by an infected person when coughing, sneezing, or talking to others who are in close proximity (within 2 Meters) to them. The following plan includes recommendations to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

For onsite campus illness reporting

If an employee or student begins to feel unwell while on campus, please contact ext.4444 immediately to receive instruction and guidance on next steps.

For offsite campus illness reporting

If an employee or student begins to feel unwell, please contact 705-749-5530 ext. 8000 to report illness and receive instruction and guidance on next steps.

Scope

This document will provide guidance on working safely based on all COVID-19 related H&S sector-specific and Public Health guidelines. This safe work plan applies to all Fleming staff, students and community members participating in the courses listed above. This safe work plan must be used in conjunction with all Fleming College operational procedures and established safety protocols.

Restricted Campus Access

All approved individuals attending campus are required to complete "Return to Campus" training in advance and participate in daily health-related screening as per Public Health requirement. Additionally, all employees and students are required to wear a non-medical mask/face covering, practice physical distancing and vigorous hand hygiene while on campus.

Recognize the COVID related hazards

- Sustained close contact (greater than 15mins)
- Shared materials, tools, equipment
- Congregation

Expected Controls to Reduce COVID Transmission

The following controls reflect current Public Health measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the work and learning environment. All participants are expected to practice these safety measures during the course of work.

Close Contact

- Ensure 2m. or 6ft. physical distancing at all times.
- Daily attendance will be taken. Ideally make note of partnerships and assigned workstations.
- If project/pair work is required, staff and students will be assigned consistent partner for the entirety of the course. Activities that require contact will only be completed with assigned partners.
- Sustained close contact (greater then 15mins) requires a procedural mask AND eye protection.

Shared Equipment

- Assigned equipment to be used as much as possible to reduce sharing.
- Students will be encouraged to bring in their own tools when possible.
- When shared equipment and tools must take place, vigilant hand hygiene will be the primary control.
- Diligent hand hygiene will occur before and after contact with a piece of equipment.
- The instructor podium and electronics i.e. safety phone, computer keyboard, mouse, monitor, etc. will be disinfected prior use and after use using wipes provided.
- Equipment can be left to “rest” for min of 72 hours or disinfected prior to redeployment.

Congregation

- Respect all directional floor markings and posted safety signs.
- Use of staggered schedules to reduce potential of hallway, breakroom etc. congregation.
- Numbered workstations are assigned for duration of all lab activities.
- Workstations are pre-stocked, by lab technologist in advance to minimize student’s movement during the lab.
- Demonstrations will be led by instructor in smaller groups to avoid close congregation.
- Consider the use of technological support such as document cameras.
- Use of plexiglass barriers can be considered for close contact discussions in addition to face coverings.
- Unapproved close contact between individuals is strictly prohibited.

Sanitation

- All labs and workspaces will be provided with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Care will be taken to use only what is required to prevent waste of supplies.
- All consumables such as wipes will be discarded in the garbage cans provided after use.
- All unnecessary equipment will be removed from the lab/workspace space to promote wipeable surfaces and encourage physical distancing.
- Vigorous hand hygiene must be practiced after using shared equipment or high touch surfaces.
- It is extremely important that everyone washes and/or sanitize hands
 - before touching your face, eyes, or mouth;

- before putting on your personal protective equipment (PPE);
- before eating, drinking, smoking or vaping;
- after removing your PPE or your soiled work clothing;
- after working on a surface touched by other people; and
- after using a tool or equipment that is shared with other people.

CAUTION: DO NOT USE HAND SANITIZER WHEN COMPLETING FLAME WORK DUE TO THE FLAMMABILITY OF THE ALCOHOL IN THE HAND SANITIZER. Each lab is equipped with a sink, running water and soap for use upon entry into the lab. Directions of effective hand washing signs are present at all sinks.

Shared Responsibility

- All participants are expected to read and practice all safety measures outlined in this document.
- All participants are responsible for identifying safety related hazards in the workplace.
- The Supervisor is responsible for ensuring all safety measures are known and adhered to by all workers in the workplace.

This section is to capture additional information regarding the unique characteristics of the activity taking place. Please complete this area.

List the standard PPE requirements for this course/dept.

chest waders, personal, not shared
heavy rubber Electrofishing gloves (shared, college owned)
polarized sunglasses
ballcap
clothing appropriate for weather

1. Detail the course/department specific activities that require additional safety measures or considerations, not covered in the list above.

Provide details here:

1) Electrofishing involves the participation as part of an instream crew within 2m of each other for up to 40 minutes. This will not be mandatory, but students not participating here will not be eligible for Electrofishing Backpack Crew Leader certification. Please note that this certification is not required for graduation.

2) shared equipment use, including rubber gloves.

3) Other activities (besides Electrofishing) involving shared tools.

4) travel to and from site on bus.

- 2. Provide details regarding the additional safety measures required to address the risks outlined above?** (consider suggestions in tip sheet attached)

Provide details here:

See Addendum to Safe Work Plan APST 147 Freshwater Ecology Field School.

- 3. List new or additional PPE considerations.**

☐ **N/A** (please check this box if these considerations are not applicable to this SWP)

Provide details here:

More Electrofishing gloves should be acquired prior to April 19th to reduce the number of users sharing gloves without a period of non-use.

Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and sprays should be brought into the field on these trips to allow students to disinfect themselves and tools before and after use.

Level II masks should be provided by the college.

4. Provide details regarding required extracurricular activities (Examples Day Trips, Visitors/Guest, One-Off Trips)

☒ **N/A** (please check this box if these considerations are not applicable to this SWP)

Provide details here:

All 3 days of this field school are required for graduation.

Compliance

Failure to comply with this Safe Work Plan or any other procedures or policies of Fleming College may result in your dismissal from the lab and you may be asked to leave the College until your compliance for your safety and others can be assured.

Evaluation of Safe Work Plan

- a. Review of stock of disinfecting wipes, cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.
- b. Weekly lab inspections to ensure spaces remains decluttered and organized.
- c. Frequent review and revision of Safe Work Plan to reflect ongoing policy revision and amendments – Prior to each semester at minimum.

Approvals

Revision History

Date	Rev.	Revision Summary	by
	0	Original.	
6/3/21	1	Updated as per Marc Patenaude	MP

Addendum to Safe Work Plan APST 147 Freshwater Ecology Field School

- 1) Face masks will be required outdoors. Level II masks will be required when students will be within 2 metres of each other, when they are in the water participating as Electrofishing crew (4 students). The crew of 4 instream can rotate positions without introducing new participants, this may last up to 40 minutes. Level II masks will be provided for this instream activity.

Polarized sunglasses are a standard item for Electrofishing. Combined with a ballcap (brim forward) these will help protect the eyes from aerial transmission. These two items will be mandatory for the instream crew this year.

- 2) Electrofishing requires the use of elbow length electrical lineman (heavy rubber) gloves to protect from electrical shock. Due to the cost, these college owned gloves are shared. This year students will be encouraged to wash and/or sanitize before and after using these gloves.

Our supply is limited. Gloves are typically inverted to dry out overnight (sweat) before the next section shares them. Gloves are washed sometimes, and need to be left to dry naturally. Turnaround time is short this year, and between Aquatic Studies, Freshwater Ecology Field School, and the new ConEd course there will be more than twice the usual activity this Spring, not to mention the attrition that happens every year as gloves leak (and are immediately pulled out of circulation); we should purchase more. I believe this action has been put into effect.

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes and/or sprays will be required to disinfect hands and tools before and after using gloves and other tools.

- 3) This field school involves other activities besides Electrofishing where there is sharing of tools, in these cases there will be momentary close proximity of students as one student is taking over a tool that is engaged in activity from another student.

The instances where this will happen are: 1) the handing off of a "D" net involved in capturing invertebrates by OBBN protocol. Some students will be seeking OBBN certification which began in the classroom of Freshwater Biology, and for this certification they must complete a practical portion instream. Emptying of these nets involves 2 or 3 students in close proximity to hold a pan, dump the net, rinse into pan. 2) handing off a stream flow measuring device, not mandatory for anyone to engage who does not want to. And 3) two students, one grasping

each end of a 30m measuring tape, and quickly moving away from each other. No one will be made to do this if they choose not to.

Level II masks, eyewear, and ballcaps will be required as described above in the Electrofishing section to protect against aerial infection.

Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes and/or sprays will be required to disinfect hands and tools before and after using gloves and other tools.

4) Busing to and from the field site (various locations along Pigeon River)

- face coverings will be worn on the bus
- students sitting individually in seats on the bus
- students will be staggered in the seats to maximize space
- students are assigned to a seat and use that seat for the trip to and from the site
- no eating or drinking on the bus
- some bus windows will be open to allow air circulation while maintaining a comfortable temperature on the bus
- students will remain in their seats for the duration of the trip
- the bus will not stop enroute to the destination.

End addendum