

## COVID-19 Field Research Information Advisory

Updated August 2020

The health and safety of our employees and students is a priority to the University. As part of your field research, you may be exposed to a greater risk of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is important that you are aware that there are **risks, dangers and hazards** associated with participating in field research, including the possibility of severe or fatal illness. These risks include, but are not limited to:

1. The possibility of becoming ill due to exposure to bacteria, viruses, communicable and contagious diseases including COVID-19.
2. Injury and/or illness resulting from contact with employees, clients, volunteers, community members, or other students.
3. **TERRAIN AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT** whether visible / apparent or not, and any manner of injury or loss of any nature arising from falls on steep, slippery or uneven terrain, from falling rocks, trees or other objects, from obstructions, from other participants, from landslides, etc.;
4. **TRAVEL** including, without limitation, travel to and from any locales scheduled to be visited or not by public or private bus, motor vehicle, boat, aircraft, helicopter, light fixed-wing aircraft, etc., and injury or accident from being the operator of a vehicle and loading/unloading equipment or supplies from vehicles;
5. **WEATHER** and any manner of injury or loss of any nature resulting from exposure to weather conditions, including but not limited to cold, heat, sunlight, snow, ice, wind, hail, rain, sleet, fog, mist, etc.;
6. **LOCATIONS** and any manner of injury or loss of any nature arising from becoming lost or injured, the inability to receive prompt or any medical services for any reasons, war, terrorism, political unrest, riots, disregarding safety instructions, violence, etc.;
7. **NON-HUMAN LIFE** of any nature whatsoever, including, without limitation, any animal, reptiles, insect, fish, bird, fungus, vegetation, bacteria or viruses and any injury or loss of any nature whatsoever arising therefrom;
8. **EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY OR OTHER DEVICES** including, without limitation, any equipment deployed in respect of the Field Activities or otherwise and any manner of injury or loss arising from the use, misuse, malfunction or breakdown of any equipment, machinery or similar device that may be deployed or used;
9. **OTHER HAZARDS** including, without limitation, hypothermia, allergens, noxious gases, electrocution, shock, drowning, chemicals (including, without limitation, herbicides, pesticides, acid and caustic bases), radioactive nuclides, radiation, x-rays, flying rock chips, vandalism, theft of personal property, street crime, armed robberies, carjacking, rape, credit card fraud, and any manner of injury or loss whatsoever arising therefrom; and
10. **FREE TIME** including anything arising from my child's participation in activities or functions that are not directly related to the Field Activities, including but not limited to injury or loss of any nature arising from tours, walks, hiking, shopping, sports activities, dancing, alcohol or drug ingestion, intoxication and/or alcohol/drug poisoning from alcohol or drugs consumed.

### Insurance

1. As an employee or registered student and while participating in your field research work, you may be eligible to be deemed a Government of Alberta worker under the *Workers' Compensation Act* (Alberta). If you are injured in a work related accident, you may be able to claim workers' compensation benefits and cannot sue the University, your employer or any other employer or worker covered under the *Workers' Compensation Act* (Alberta). In every case, WCB Alberta will adjudicate all work-related and benefit entitlements based on the specific and unique circumstances of each case.
2. All accidents or incidents should be reported as soon as possible to your Supervisor and Workers' Compensation Alberta. Employees will be guided through the reporting process by their supervisor. WCB is responsible for managing and adjusting all claims that qualify for student WCB coverage. Contact WCB at 780-498-3999 or 1-866-922-9221. The University of Alberta's WCB account number for students is 316150/8. Additional information can be found on the [Insurance & Risk Assessment website](#), the [WCB website](#), or the WCB [Student Coverage Fact Sheet](#).

3. The University **does not** insure personal vehicles or property for either employees or students. Participants who bring personal property with them or who will be driving their own personal vehicles on field research business are urged to contact their insurance broker to ensure that they have adequate personal automobile and property insurance.

### **Guidelines**

Please ensure you have and read and understood the following guidelines:

1. You must wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times as required by the University and local health authorities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
2. You must be physically well to participate in the field research. Please ensure that you follow provincial self-isolation guidelines and stay home from work if you feel ill and/or present with any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficult breathing, flu-like symptoms, and runny nose. You should advise your supervisor if you are in a high-risk category, including but not limited to, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, lung diseases, moderate to severe asthma, if you are immunocompromised, have active malignancy, or are over the age of 65.
3. You must read, understand, and follow the Hazard Assessment specific to your research site.
4. Report any concerns you have about your safety to your employer and your University program coordinator or supervisor.
5. You must follow all rules, instructions, guidelines for after-hour activities, and health and safety regulations provided by the activity leaders, instructors, organizers, local officials, or any other governing body with jurisdictional authority, whether verbal or written.
6. You must wear appropriate attire, including footwear, for outdoor activities, weather conditions, and the nature of the work.
7. If as part of your duties you are required to drive, you must meet all the necessary University driver requirements and follow all related policy and procedures.
8. You should register with the [University's UGO Off-Campus Travel Registry](#) before participating in this field activity.
9. Please continue to check the [U of A COVID-19 site](#) regularly for information on in-person activity approvals, safety guidelines and directives, and the current status of our community and campuses.