**Parfrey Lab – COVID-19 Fieldwork Safety Plan**

**Purpose:** To implement field work procedures that maintain physical distancing while following the existing field safety plan. COVID-19 remains a serious concern during the phased ending of research curtailment and requires procedures that allow the continuation of fieldwork while minimizing the risk of contracting and spreading the disease. The health and safety of all students, trainees, staff, and PIs is paramount. Parfrey lab research is heavily dependent on the acquisition of biological samples from the field. Many key target samples are seasonal and the main collecting period late fall to early summer. Failing to collect during this window would set back the research program a year. Typical collecting trips are brief overnight trips to local seagrass meadows and we are confident that we can resume these while maintaining social distancing behaviours and safe field protocol.

1. **As you prepare for the field, will you need to access your lab or office?**Yes. Emily Adamczyk and Siobhan Schenk will need lab access and are approved for work in Stage 2 in the Parfrey lab.
2. **Are you able to travel to and from research sites in compliance with current government and University travel advisories and restrictions?**Yes. we will travel to and from the field site on Galiano Island using a Botany vehicle or the O’Connor lab truck. More specifically, Emily and Siobhan will travel together to Galiano island, using masks while carpooling. They will follow guidelines provided by BC Ferries, which allows for physical distancing (2 metres +) and require face coverings on their vessels. Once on Galiano Island, they will travel to Montague Harbour separately from other team members who live on Galiano to continue physical distancing.

When low tide falls late at night or early morning, team members will travel in pairs by car. Participants will follow distancing guidelines provided by WorkSafeBC (<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/health-and-safety/covid-19-faqs> section ‘**How can I ensure safety during worker transportation?**’, in particular maximizing distance between participants in the car, wearing non-medical masks, sanitizing high-contact points, and opening the car windows for ventilation.

1. **How will the field team composition and size allow for physical distancing?**Team members will physically distance when traveling. Fieldwork will have a maximum of 5 participants. The fieldwork is outside in a breezy location.
2. **Will you require permission from a government department, non-profit agency or research institute to conduct work at your field site?  If so, please attach signed permissions.**

Yes.

1. **What are the proposed dates for this fieldwork?**Overnight trips (less than 72h) during the second week of November and December 2020. Other trips for further sampling may be necessary in the spring or summer.
2. **Is there a contact number for your team during the fieldwork period?  If not, how can the team be reached daily while in the field?**

Emily’s cell number: 604-842-8657  
Siobhan’s cell number: 506-471-3607

We designate Laura Parfrey (mobile: 604-992-8397) as the external emergency contact for field trips. In cases where Laura is not on field trip, Andrew Simon (cell: 250-888-6144) and Lauren Magner (cell: 250-580-9106, home: 250-539-5089) who both live on Galiano Island will act as the external contact persons.

Emily and Siobhan will notify the emergency contact person upon all departures and arrivals (Vancouver, Calvert Island) via cell phone texts and Slack messages.

1. **How will you train the field crew in COVID-19 safety practices?**All participants will be asked if they have any symptoms, if they have been in contact with someone with a COVID-19 infection before the trip, or if they have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days. Any participants that are sick or have been exposed will stay home and the trip will be rescheduled, or a replacement participant from the lab will join instead.

Risk is minimal as participants are working outside and able to maintain distance. Participants will sanitize their hands before using Botany department vehicles and upon arriving at the field site. All participants will carry masks, hand sanitizer, and use them when in vehicles and when close proximity is required.

1. **How do modes of travel at your research site allow for physical distancing?**

While travelling to the research site, participants will travel together (max 2 team members per car). COVID-19 safety measures include maximizing distance between participants in the car, wearing non-medical masks, sanitizing high-contact points, and opening the car windows for ventilation.

1. **How do living and working conditions at the site allow for physical distancing and/or for self-isolation should it be necessary?**

Living conditions allow physical distancing by providing ample space to distance during meals, sleeping, etc. If isolation is required, it is also possible because the residence provided by IMERSS (Institute of Multidisciplinary Ecological Research in the Salish Sea) is separate, including entrances to sleeping quarters. Team members will be working outdoors without a need to be in close proximity.

Each team member will have separate roles, so there will be no need for equipment sharing during sampling. Equipment will be sanitized after each sampling session.

1. **What plans are in place should a member of the research team develop COVID-19 symptoms**It is unlikely that someone will become sick during the trip since it is such short duration. However, if a team member is experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, dry cough, tiredness, loss of sense of taste/smell, or sore throat), they will remain on shore and be relocated to an empty building suitable for housing. They will call 811 and be aided in self-isolating for a period of time until further action in compliance with UBC guidelines are required (e.g., transported the patient to a care facility).   
     
   Both the sick team member and colleagues who have come in contact with them will self-isolate for 14 days in accordance with BC public health guidelines. In case a member of our team requires medical attention or hospitalization, we will work with the residents of Galiano Island and local authorities to safely transport (i.e., minimize the risk of spread during transit) the team member to appropriate facilities in Vancouver.
2. **If your research will potentially bring you into contact with local communities, how will you ensure required and effective physical distancing?**Our accommodations are with members of the community involved in the research project through IMERSS. We will maintain physical distancing throughout the entirety of the trip as explained above (living arrangements, car). There is no need to interact in close contact with any other community members because we will be self-sufficient for the duration of our trip. If someone from the public approaches the team from the general public, we will ask folks to maintain at least 2 metres of distance.
3. **When you return from the field, will you need to access your lab or office to process or handle samples?  If so, please describe the expected duration of sample-handling and why the handling must be done immediately.**Yes. Microbial samples must be stored at -80C as soon as possible to prevent degradation. Emily and Siobhan are on the Parfrey lab list for Stage 2 research and we will schedule them to come in on days of field trips. Trips will be scheduled on weekdays as much as possible.
4. **Please confirm that this Safety Plan has been shared with staff and students through email and will also be made available as a shared document.   Staff and students can either provide a signature or email confirmation that they have received, read and understood the contents of the plan.**

Confirmed.