**QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED IN A FIELD WORK PLAN DURING COVID-19**

1. **As you prepare for the field, will you need to access your lab or office?**

Yes. Emily and Siobhan will need lab access and are approved for work in Stage 2 in the Parfrey lab.

1. **Are you able to travel to and from research sites in compliance with current government and University travel advisories and restrictions?**

Yes. When low tide falls late at night or early morning participants 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.

**How will the field team composition and size allow for physical distancing?**

Participants will distance when traveling. Fieldtrips have a maximum of 2 participants. The fieldwork is outside in a breezy location.

1. **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 48h) during the second or third week of November 2020. Other trips for further sampling may be necessary in the spring or summer.

1. **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 phone number is 604-842-8657

Siobhan’s phone number is 506-471-3607

1. **How will you train the field crew in COVID-19 safety practices?**

All participants will be asked if they have any symptoms, or if they have been in contact with someone with a COVID-19 infection before the trip. 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 getting into Botany department vehicles and upon arriving at the field site. All participants will carry masks and hand sanitizer and use if close proximity is required, and when in vehicles.

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

During nighttime low tides (late September through March), participants will travel together (max 2 participants) by car to avoid traveling and working alone at night. Covid 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.  
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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 is separate, including entrances to sleeping quarters.

Working outdoors without a need to be in close proximity. 

1. **What plans are in place should a member of the research team develop COVID-19 symptoms?**

(1) It is unlikely that someone will become sick during the trip, since it is such short duration.

(2) If a participant becomes sick / symptomatic prior to the trip the trip will be cancelled unless PI Parfrey can join as a replacement.

(3) any participants that develop symptoms will Follow BC Health directives, call 811 and isolate as directed and inform fieldwork partners and all lab members.

1. **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. We will maintain social distance throughout the trip whenever possible as explained above (living arrangements, car). If someone from the public approaches the team from the general public, we will ask folks to maintain 6 feet of distance.

1. **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 -80 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 scheduled on weekdays as much as possible.

1. **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.