

# Safety plan for Wolkovich Lab: Okanagan field work

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## 1 General overview

This research involves a small crew of two to three people visiting vineyards in the Okanagan to establish a penology monitoring project that will run for at least a further two years. The Okanagan valley is not very remote, as the vineyards are all closely managed, so risk to fieldworkers is generally low. Hazards include walking over uneven ground, carrying equipment, exposure to cold and heat, and interactions with wildlife. There are also hazards associated with travel to and from field sites. In addition, the current COVID-19 situation creates additional hazards for both field workers and local communities, but we deem these risks to be low and are taking appropriate action as recommended by WorkSafe BC <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/forestry>.

## 2 Personnel and Contact Information

### 2.1 Field Crew

There will be a main team of two field operatives (Faith Jones and Mira Garner) for the full three week period, and an additional field crew member (Elizabeth Wolkovich) for the first week. Faith and Mira will travel up in one vehicle (*insert vehicle license plate*), and Elizabeth in another other (*insert license plate*). Elizabeth will also stay at a different location to Faith and Mira, although both locations will be within ( $x$  km from Kelowna.

### 2.2 Contact Details

Table 1: Field crew contact details

Name	Contact
Elizabeth Wolkovich	?
Faith Jones	604 786 2574
Mira Garner	?

Table 2: Field crew emergency contact details

Field Crew Member	Name	Contact
Elizabeth Wolkovich	?	?
Faith Jones	Peter Walton (spouse)	604 803 0664
Mira Garner	?	?

Table 3: Other contact details

Name	Contact
General Emergencies	911
Kelowna General Hospital	250 862 4000
Pat	?
Carl	?
QuailsGate vineyard main office	?
Altera main vineyard office	?

### 2.3 Nearest Hospital

Kelowna General Hospital  
2268 Pandosy Street  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1T2  
Phone: 250-862-4000  
Emergency service 24/7 7 days a week

## **2.4 General Safety Items**

### **2.4.1 Overview**

The field crew will be based in Kelowna (N49.878761, W -119.511708), where the closest hospital is (see Figure 1 ). Fieldwork will involve driving to various vineyards within a 30km radius up and down the Okanagan valley. All sites are accessible by well maintained roads. Once on site, crew members will scope out vineyards and plan which vine plants will be selected for phonological monitoring next year. This activity needs to take place this year because our contacts with the vineyards are retiring this year, and so will be unavailable to facilitate project set up next year. We must set up our field sites in early May because later in the year the vineyard employees are busy applying various viticulture practices across the vineyards. The vineyards will therefore be less amenable after May and the risks of coming into contact with vineyard employees will be higher.

### **2.4.2 Equipment and training**

The main field vehicle that Faith and Mira will drive has been recently serviced and contains a first aid kit. A printed copy of the lab emergency procedure, emergency contacts, MSP information, and the location of the nearest hospital or clinic will also be stored with the field safety equipment. Crew members will work in a minimum of pairs, while practicing appropriate social distancing measures. They will also carry mobile phones with them, as mobile phone reception is not problematic in the Okanagan Valley, and a first aid kit will be easily accessible in the vehicle on site. All vehicles used for fieldwork will be properly maintained and include equipment such as jumper cables and a spare tire. To avoid fatigue, no driver will drive for long periods without breaks. All drivers are experienced drivers (more than 5 years of experience), and our Principle Investigator ELizabeth Wolkovich has taken both Faith and Mira for road tests prior to the field trip to ensure that they are safe drivers. All individuals will wear appropriate clothing and have access to sunscreen and insect repellent. Workers will also carry ample food and water to avoid fatigue and dehydration.

## **3 Identifying and Addressing Specific Health and Safety Concerns**

### **3.1 COVID-19**

We are following the principles and guidelines laid out by WorkSafe BC specifically for Forestry field work and COVID-19 safety <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-industry-information/forestry>

#### **3.1.1 Pre-departure Health Screening**

In order to undertake travel to the research site, we will first ensure that crew members are healthy prior to departure. All three crew members will begin Temperature/Symptom Tracking two weeks before the day we are to leave for the field. Temperature screening will be done

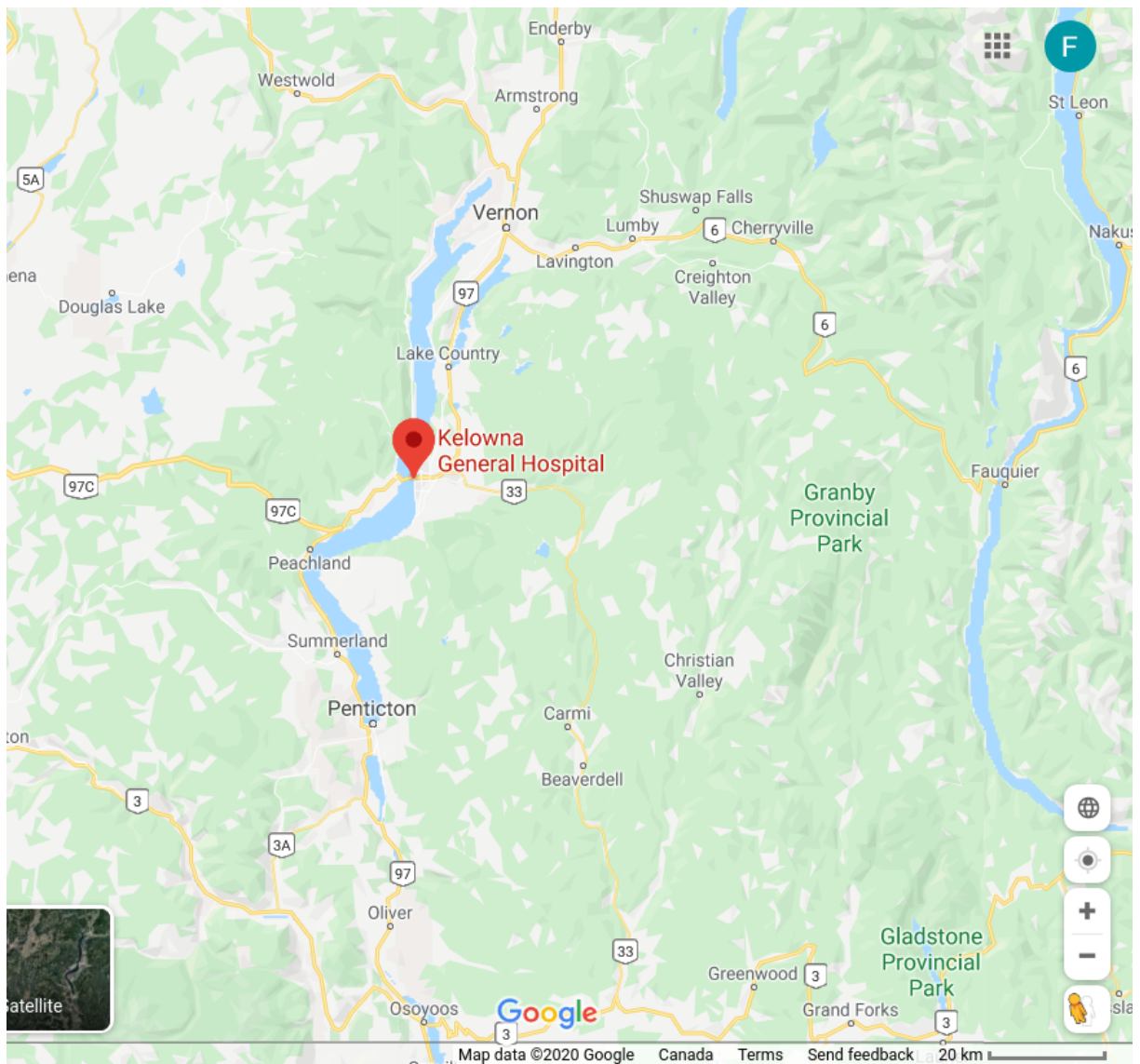


Figure 1: A map of the Okanagan Valley showing the location of Kelowna, where the closest hospital is.

with a properly calibrated thermometer, with temperature thresholds based on Health Canada guidelines. An indicator for possible COVID-19 infection is 37.5 C. Active daily monitoring will be conducted using the Personal Health Daily Monitoring Form (from the BC Center for Disease Control). All crew members must complete the form which is provided below. Any crew member that has had a confirmed case of COVID-19 or who is unwell at the time of departure based on the COVID-19 symptoms being tracked using the Personal Health Monitoring Form, will not be allowed to take part in this research project.

### **3.1.2 Overview**

The crew consists of three team members. Other than driving to and from the accommodation, and driving to the field sites, all of the work is outdoors, and there will be no difficulty in maintaining appropriate social distancing of two meter minimum distances. Any team meetings will take place outside to maintain physical distance. All team members will be responsible for ensuring physical distancing is maintained and any special COVID-19 precautions are strictly followed as per WorkSafe BC guidelines. Good hygiene will be practiced at all times, in line with the WorkSafe BC recommendations.

### **3.1.3 Location**

Faith and Mira will stay in a large apartment in Kelowna. They will have separate bedrooms and washrooms, and will sanitise communal space and equipment regularly and remain 2 meters apart at all times. Elizabeth will stay in a separate apartment close by. Each crew member will have their own sanitizer and hygiene supplies for personal use for the duration of the field work. There will also be bulk liquid soap, water, and sanitizer that the crew can use to fill their personal containers if the need arises. Elizabeth will be in her own vehicle, while Faith and Mira will share a field vehicle. In the shared vehicle the passenger in the back-passenger seat will be diagonally positioned relative to the driver to maintain a two meter distance ensuring physical distancing is in place as per WorkSafe BC guidelines. All crew will wash hands with soap and water (or with hand sanitizer) prior to entering the vehicles. The interior (e.g. seatbelts, headrests, door handles, steering wheels, and hand holds) and exterior door handles of both vehicles will be wiped down with sanitizing cleaner at the end of each day, or sooner if a member of the crew reports COVID-19 symptoms.

### **3.1.4 Exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms**

If a crew member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (e.g. sore throat, fever, sneezing or coughing) they would be put into the far back seat of their truck, and instructed to put on a protective face mask and gloves. The other crew member, if not already the driver, would become the driver and they would put on a protective face mask and gloves. The inside of the vehicle (e.g. seatbelts, headrests, door handles, steering wheels, and hand holds) would then be wiped down with sanitizing cleaner. The vehicle would immediately head back to Vancouver not stopping along the way (we have extra gas in Jerry cans in the truck bed, and food/water). The drive time would be up to but likely not more than 6 hours. During the drive, the person with symptoms would continue to monitor their situation using a thermometer and tracking other

health metrics (see Personal Health Daily Monitoring Form below). We have thermometers in the vehicles to enable effective monitoring. The vehicle interior and exterior door handles would be wiped down with sanitizing cleaner upon completion of the drive. Following the protocols set out by WorkSafe BC, both the person with symptoms and the driver would go into self-isolation in their homes for two weeks. The research supervisor would immediately notify the Public Health Authority in British Columbia by dialing 811 that someone with symptoms is self-isolating. We would notify the management of our field accommodation so that they could take necessary cleaning precautions. Any crew that has had a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not be allowed to come to work.

### **3.1.5 Interactions with collaborators**

We will be interacting with local collaborators, but will maintain social distance from then as per the WorkSafe BC recommendations. To this end, all meetings will be kept to a minimum, and will take place outside where there is enough space for 2 meters between every person. We will also practice good hygiene, including wearing face masks, not touching faces, washing hands often and for at least 20 seconds (or sanitizing hands if washing not possible) and sneezing/coughing into disposable tissues if needed.

### **3.1.6 Interactions with field workers in vineyards**

We will alert vineyards to our presence on site so we and field workers will be aware of each other's presence. Our fieldwork does not require interaction with such workers, so if we see any workers we will retreat to a safe distance until they have left the immediate area. Any surfaces we and vineyard fieldworkers might come into contact with will be sanitized before and after contact. Our own crew members will also maintain a 2 meter distance from each other at all times as per the WorkSafe BC guidelines.

### **3.1.7 Interactions with local communities**

Our field base will be close to the town of Kelowna, where we plan to obtain necessary groceries and gas. To reduce risk to local communities, we will keep shopping trips to a minimum (once a week), wear face masks, and sanitize our hands before and after shopping, and maintain good hygiene. We will only use self-service gas stations and prior to use we will wipe down the gas pump nozzle and PIN pad on the pump with sanitizing wipes. We will not come into contact with any First Nation communities in the Okenagan Valley.