Rules of Engagement for Field Work during the COVID-19 Crisis

In accordance with the State of Colorado’s COVID-19’s public health orders, the following general rules must be followed at all times.

1. You must abide by social distancing rules throughout your field work, including travel to and from the site.

2. If you are working with others from Mines, each of them will need to submit their own individual field work request.

3. You must include among your field supplies hand sanitizer or other means of regularly and thoroughly washing your hands.

4. You must wear a fabric mask except when you are alone or >6 ft away from anyone else. You must use gloves or a similar solution when more than one person uses the same piece of equipment, or disinfect the equipment between users.

5. If you have any symptoms of COVID 19 (cough, fever, fatigue, difficulty of breathing), do not go into the field or use any space on campus until you have been cleared by medical professionals. It appears that some people with COVID 19 have other symptoms so if you feel sick at all, please do not use the space until you feel better and are convinced that you do not have the virus. Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment directs you stay in isolation until you’ve been fever free for 72 hours, your symptoms have improved (cough has improved) and at least 7 days have passed since the onset of your symptoms. It is important that we protect each other from any illness right now, so stay home and rest.

6. For field research that requires travel beyond the Denver/Boulder metropolitan area and surrounding counties (in state, out of state, or international), Colorado state guidance requires 14 days of self-monitoring upon your return. (Self-monitoring means to check your health for COVID-19 symptoms twice a day. Symptoms include: Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches, sore throat and/or new loss of taste or smell. If you experience any of these symptoms, you should not come to work and/or campus and should follow the health screening procedures for when you can return.)

7. If you are accessing campus research facilities to prepare for or complete field sample collection, you must:
   a. Make sure that you are using your Blastercard when you go into a building, even if a door is already open. We need to know who has been in the labs for contact tracing if there are any cases of COVID-19. Do not let someone else use your Blastercard, or let anyone in who does not have one.
   b. You must have permission of the person in charge of the lab you want to use – no exceptions. Use whatever scheduling method is appropriate for a given lab (for example, Google calendars or FOM).
   c. If the lab requires a buddy be with you or in a nearby lab, you are required to ensure that a buddy is present, and that buddy must also request and be approved for campus access. Again, no exceptions. If this is a requirement and you are found without a buddy you will be banned until further notice.
   d. While you are working in the lab, you are required to maintain a distance of six feet from other users, and be cautious about touching surfaces that have been previously touched. Again, no exceptions and violation will result in your dismissal from the lab until further notice.
   e. You must have proper PPE to use the lab depending on the laboratory rules. If you are found using the lab without proper PPE, you will be banned until further notice.
   f. Both in the lab if you not alone and outside the lab (in the hallways, restrooms, or anywhere on campus where you may pass near other people), you must wear a fabric face covering. Helpful instructions for making one can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html.
   g. You are expected to leave the lab in better condition than you find it. If we discover unsafe or poor lab practices, you will be banned from the lab until further notice. You need to be a “good citizen” of the lab.
   h. If your work can wait, it should. Focus on remote portions of your work like literature review and paper writing if at all possible.
   i. Upon leaving, please wipe down any work surfaces that you touch with antiseptic spray or wipes. EHS has 70% IPA for researchers who need it.
   j. Do not remove supplies from the lab for your personal use.
   k. These rules protect the entire community of Mines researchers and research progress for everyone. If you see someone violating these rules, report what you saw. You can talk to your advisor, the lab