COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Effective May 18 – August 7, 2021

Arrivals & Departures

1. All station users and visitors must complete the on-line Sign-In/Out and Health Attestation form (mlbs.org/access) with every transition on or off the station. This applies to visitors, day-users, new arrivals, residents, contractors, and UVA employees.

2. All station users and visitors are strongly encouraged to complete COVID-19 vaccinations at least 14 days prior to arrival at the station.

3. Arriving residents (those staying overnight) and day-users of indoor space over the age of 12 years must provide proof of negative PCR COVID-19 test taken within 96 hours of arrival, or proof of vaccination. Individuals who are fully vaccinated (shot series + 14 days), 12 years old or younger, or who tested positive for coronavirus fewer than 150 days before arrival are exempt from the pre-arrival testing requirement. Documentation of vaccination or positive test is required.

Masks, Distancing & Monitoring

1. Unvaccinated station users and visitors must wear masks, except when in their residences. Masks are required both on and off station grounds while in residence. Fully vaccinated users are not required to wear masks.

2. Unvaccinated station users and visitors must maintain 6 foot social distancing indoors and outside.

Resident Travel Restrictions

1. Researchers, instructors, and other professional users are restricted to Salt Pond Mountain except for research or other approved activity. Unvaccinated individuals who leave off the mountain for 14 days or more will require a negative test to return, as for new arrivals.

2. Students and other program participants are restricted to Salt Pond Mountain except during defined course or program activity accompanied by program leader. No other trips off the mountain are allowed during the program. Visiting the Mountain Lake Lodge or any of its indoor buildings or facilities is prohibited.

3. MLBS leadership may grant special travel permission. Emergency (medical, health, safety only) travel is permitted but must be reported.
Weekly Prevalence Screening

1. MLBS will conduct weekly coronavirus prevalence screening for residents through the UVA BeSafe saliva testing program. Screening is required for unvaccinated UVA students and employees. It is optional but highly recommended for others.

2. Individuals who are fully vaccinated (shot series + 14 days) or who tested positive for coronavirus fewer than 150 days before the screening date are exempt from weekly screening. Documentation of vaccination or positive test is required.

In the Event of Coronavirus Contact, Illness, or Positive Test

A resident who has:
   a. been in “contact” (within 6ft for at least 15min in the last 14 days) with anyone ill with COVID-19, or testing positive for coronavirus, will be quarantined (alone) for 10 days or depart the station.
   b. COVID-19 symptoms, or a new positive test for coronavirus, will be isolated (alone or with others) for 10 days or depart the station. There will be no “re-tests” after a positive result.

Quarantine & Isolation Procedures

1. Quarantined and isolated individuals will be moved to a new residence where they must remain 24/7. “Remain” means not stepping off the porch or departing the residence, at all. No visitors will be allowed. Meals will be delivered, and every effort will be made to provide comfort and work-related support. Communication with station personnel will be provided. Quarantined and isolated individuals will continue weekly prevalence screening, unless exempt.

2. Medical care for severe symptomatic cases is available in Blacksburg 25 minutes away at the LewisGale Hospital, Velocity Care (Carilion) in Blacksburg, or other area health clinics. MLBS staff will assist with access and transport for severe symptomatic cases.

Compliance

There is zero tolerance for violation of these policies. Violators will be asked to leave the station immediately and prohibited from returning to the station for 12 weeks.

30 May 2021