

Santa Rosa Island Research Station (SRIRS) -

COVID Shared Housing Plan - Updated August 2024

Objective - To maintain safe operating conditions at the Santa Rosa Island Research Station at 100% capacity.

Accommodations – While efforts to reduce exposure and spread of COVID-19 will continue given continued detection of cases, given other CSU and NPS policies related to housing density, occupancy of bedrooms/sleeping areas will revert to 100% of pre-COVID numbers to increase from the current 75% occupancy but still allow for easy implementation of isolation procedures. Overall overnight occupancy will be at 100% means a combined total of 36 individuals sharing SRIRS housing: 22 in bunkhouse accommodation, and 14 respectively in the 2 tent cabins.

- It is highly recommended that all trip participants visiting SRIRS for overnight trips be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in line with [CDC definitions and guidelines](#), including being up-to-date on booster doses. Trip participants with questions about where to access COVID-19 vaccinations will be referred to CSU Channel Islands Environmental Health and Safety Office. In advance of their overnight trip, Group leaders are no longer required to provide confirmation of proof of full vaccination for all trip participants.
- Group leaders will submit signed waivers; SRIRS COVID agreements will no longer be collected.
- If an individual is feeling ill (e.g. sore throat, fever, respiratory virus symptoms) up to 2 days prior to an overnight trip, a negative antigen COVID test should be completed within 24hrs of the trip start. Testing requirements are subject to change.
- SRIRS Staff and visitors will be provided with cleaning supplies during their stay.
- SRIRS Staff will continue to be educated on symptoms of COVID-19, variants, as well as health and safety guidelines by local, state, and federal agencies.
- SRIRS will follow DOI masking protocols. In addition, SRIRS will require masks indoors when mandated by either Santa Barbara County Public Health or Ventura County Public Health. Masking protocols will be determined according to whichever authority has the strictest requirements. Mask wearing in shared communal areas will be optional when DOI, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County are not mandating mask wearing.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in all bedrooms and communal areas, at the expense of the SRIRS.
- Use of outdoor space for group discussion/lessons will continue to be encouraged.
- Pre-trip discussions will be conducted with all overnight group leaders to review the shared housing policy, as part of the Group Leader Safety Orientation.
- When arriving to the island, as part of the Island Orientation, SRIRS Staff will identify the shared housing guidelines and isolation protocols for the group leader and post throughout the facility, so it is available to all trip participants.
- A copy of this plan will be posted throughout the Bunkhouse for all visitors to refer to during their stay and will be included in Facility Use Agreements with all non-CI visitors.

Isolation Plan – To be implemented should someone become ill while staying at the SRIRS and in line with [CDC Respiratory Virus Guidance](#), [CSU Channel Islands COVID-19 Safety Protocols for Professional Visitors, Vendors, General Contractors, Construction Contractors, and their Employees working on CSU Channel Islands or affiliated sites](#) and [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Isolation Guidance](#).

Should anyone develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 while at the SRIRS, they will be moved into a designated isolation area separate from other island visitors and are required to meet all the criteria included below to return to shared residence including testing negative for COVID-19 in accordance with CSUCI's policy for COVID-19 isolation

in shared residence. At the SRIRS – the Santa Rosa room will be utilized as it has its own bathroom attached to the bedroom.

- If anyone who is symptomatic and/or has tested positive displays any emergency warning signs, a Medi-vac will be coordinated with NPS-CHIS island staff, Sequoia Dispatch, and other pertinent medical professionals.
- FDA authorized or approved rapid antigen tests are on hand at the Bunkhouse (extras at the Staff House), for use in the event someone becomes ill while on island. If a person(s) presenting symptoms it is recommended to take a test as soon as possible.
- **Isolation Protocols:**
 - If a person's test comes back **positive**, that person will be held in isolation for at least 24 hours from a positive test or from when your symptoms begin whichever came first. If symptomatic, isolation shall continue until symptoms are all or mostly resolved. For in shared housing a negative test is required to return to a shared living space within 10 days of your symptom onset.
 - Anyone in isolation on island can re- test to potentially end their isolation once they have met the following criteria:
 - At least 24 hours have passed from the start of their symptoms (or 24 hours from their first positive test if they are asymptomatic) AND
 - The person has not had a fever, signs of fever like chills or elevated temperature, or needed medication to control a fever for at least 24 hours AND
 - All their other symptoms are completely or mostly resolved. CSUCI's office of Environmental Health & Safety should be consulted, when possible, to determine if a person's symptoms are adequately improved to attempt re-testing; if contact with EH&S is not feasible, SRIRS staff can consult the "Isolation Symptoms Chart" included below to determine if re-testing is recommended.
 - If the test comes back **negative**, the person will be free to return to regular activities immediately but must continue to wear a mask indoors and when in close proximity to others through their 10th day after symptom onset (or a positive test if they were asymptomatic).
 - Masking can be ended if the person leaving isolation completes a second negative COVID test at least 24 hours after their first negative COVID test that ended their isolation.
 - If this test comes back **positive**, the person will continue to isolate and may re-test daily until they either test negative or are able to be returned to the mainland, whichever comes first.
- **Exposure Protocols:**
 - If an individual is notified of an exposure after they have arrived on island, it is recommended they test 3-5 days after exposure or after any symptoms develop.
 - If they test **positive** the person will isolate and follow isolation protocol outlined above.
 - If they test **negative**, it is recommended they wear a mask when indoors and around others and monitor for symptoms for 10 days after the exposure event or the rest of their time on the island, whichever comes first.
- Relevant campus authorities and island partners will be notified of individuals presenting symptoms while participating in an SRI overnight trip. As trip manifests are collected prior to the trip occurring, contact tracing will be easily facilitated.
- For the remainder of the trip, persons previously sharing the area(s) identified for isolation will sleep in a dome tent provided by the SRIRS (single occupancy only).

On Island Vehicle Use –NPS Vehicle Use Policy adhered to by SRIRS Staff/Approved drivers. All PPE is required in a UTV (long sleeves and pants, close toed shoes/boots, gloves, eye protection, helmet).

Isolation Symptoms Chart – In the event EH&S staff are unavailable or unable to be reached, this chart can be used to determine whether it would be appropriate to re-test a person in isolation. When in doubt about the severity or extent of an individual's symptoms, it is the recommendation of EH&S that re-testing be delayed.

Continue isolating – An individual needs to continue to isolate and should not be re-tested if they've had these symptoms in the past 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever OR• Used medication to control fever OR• Likely signs of fever without measuring body temperature such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elevated body temperature○ Chills
Likely need to continue isolation – Re-testing should not be performed if an individual is having one or more of these symptoms; re-testing can be completed as early as feasible once symptoms cease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heavy or productive cough• Sore throat• Nausea• Diarrhea• Vomiting• Muscle or body aches
May be able to end isolation – You may be able to re-test an individual to end their isolation provided they are not also having more severe symptoms listed above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dry or light cough• Mild congestion• Runny nose• Headache• A loss of taste or smell