



StEER
STRUCTURAL
EXTREME EVENTS
RECONNAISSANCE

COVID-19 Protocols Quick Reference Sheet Version 1.0 Released August 1, 2020

PRINCIPLES:

1. **Do No Harm:** data collection should not endanger you, any member of your team, any participant and any other person you interact with during your work
2. **Comply with Public Health Guidance:** data collection must be conducted in a manner consistent with current local public health recommendations to limit the spread of COVID-19
3. **Follow Employer Policies:** participation (including associated travel) must be allowable within your institution/employer's current COVID-19 mitigation policies
4. **Minimize Exposure:** plan missions with localized responses and with data collection periods as short as possible to minimize risks, employing rapid imaging techniques and virtual data collection to the greatest extent possible.

The following **Checklist** offers practical recommendations that should not replace the official guidance from your employer and the authorities in the locale where the data is being collected (CDC, State and Local Governments), recognizing that such guidance will continually evolve. Note that StEER data collection is executed outdoors, which minimizes risks; thus the primary risks managed by the guidance below will focus on interpersonal interactions during data collection and team logistics. Members should participate in missions only if they feel comfortable with the risks they are personally assuming given the suggested mitigation measures herein.

Preparing for Data Collection

- Before deploying, verify (1) if the affected region has shelter-at-home orders in place and (2) the allowable number of persons in groups under local public health advisories. StEER will update team configuration and response plans to comply with both of these policies.
- All members will be asked to voluntarily remove themselves from the team if they are currently infected with COVID-19 (as confirmed by test or symptom list below), or have had close, sustained contact¹ with someone infected with COVID-19 (as confirmed by test or symptom list below):**
 - temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F

¹ The Indiana Department of health defines "Close contact" as being within 6 feet or closer for 15 minutes or longer, with or without a mask, with or without physical contact.



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Building Resilience through Reconnaissance
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- fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, unexplained loss of taste or smell, diarrhea or headache
- All team members will be required to provide their own mask, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes (for shared equipment). Gloves are not advised since they cannot be changed after each interaction.
- Plan fieldwork to minimize the exchange of shared items such as equipment and instrumentation.
- Plan fieldwork to also accommodate limited access to stores, restaurants and even public restrooms, as well as the need for more private rooms and vehicles to meet social distancing requirements.

Logistics

- When possible, StEER will provide a local response that avoids air travel, using personal vehicles (preferred) or rental cars to move investigators into the affected area.
- When possible, StEER will secure private rooms for all persons either in a rental house or hotel.
- When possible, StEER will secure a sufficient number of vehicles so team members can travel in pairs. StEER recommends one person drives the vehicle consistently and the passenger ride in the back seat to maintain separation, with windows open as weather conditions allow.
- Even outside of data collection activities, members should comply with social distancing and other local guidance, including surrounding wearing masks in public and when accessing businesses like stores and restaurants.
- If these cannot be achieved and team members are not comfortable with the arrangements that are possible under current conditions, they should withdraw from the mission.

During Data Collection

- Assess yourself daily:
 - Do you have fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, unexplained loss of taste or smell, diarrhea or headache?

If so, StEER requests that you voluntarily discontinue participation, return home, and seek medical guidance.
- Wash hands (at minimum) at the start and end of data collection periods using soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Wear a mask covering the mouth and nose throughout data collection.
- If you must cough or sneeze, direct your face into your elbow and away from others.
- When engaging with others in the field, maintain a 6 foot distance (this includes between teammates) at all times.
- Limit physical contact during data collection and minimize exchange of shared items. Common equipment/instruments should be wiped down with disinfecting wipes after each person's use.

