Project Oceanology is committed to working with school districts during the 2021-2022 school year while keeping students and staff safe. This document describes the COVID-19 protocols we have in place. Please note all of our staff are fully vaccinated.

**Safety Procedures at the Project Oceanology Facility**

Our building is open and ready to support field trips, but we have instituted a number of important safety precautions. Our procedures have been tried and tested during our safe and successful summer camp season. These include:

- **Cohorts**: Project Oceanology can accommodate up to three completely separate groups of up to 25 students at one time. Each group would have separate bathrooms (if requested), and separate indoor areas to assemble.
- **Cleaning and sterilization**: All common touch areas, including bathrooms and laboratories, will be sterilized between groups and at the end of each day using CDC-approved sanitizing spray.
- **Masks and Social distancing**: All staff and students will wear masks at all times while inside Project Oceanology facilities and while aboard Project Oceanology research vessels. Social distancing will be encouraged when possible and mask breaks can be taken outdoors when students are spaced 6 feet apart or more.
- **Lunch**: A large cafeteria and classroom space are available for groups to eat their lunches indoors. Eating lunch outdoors on our patio or in the lawn on campus is strongly encouraged.

**Safety Procedures aboard Project Oceanology Research Vessels**

At Project Oceanology, we are used to prioritizing student safety! In addition to our normal vessel safety procedures, we have instituted the following additional safety methods related to COVID-19:

- **Cleaning and Sterilization**: All research vessel surfaces will be sterilized between groups and at the end of each day using CDC-approved sanitizing spray. If two separate cohorts are aboard, surfaces will be sterilized in between groups.
- **Social distancing**: Social distancing is not always possible aboard the research vessels, although students will spend most of their time in outdoor spaces.
- **Masks**: All staff and students will wear masks at all times while inside Project Oceanology facilities and while aboard Project Oceanology research vessels.

**Safety Procedures for In-School Programming**

Project Oceanology instructors wear masks and follow strict sanitization procedures. We will also abide by all school-specific rules related to social distancing, PPE, and sanitization.

**Safety Procedures during Project Oceanology Shore Programs**

Project Oceanology leads shore programs at Bluff Point State Park, Pine Island (by skiff) and Avery Point. Our safety procedures remain consistent with those stated above, ensuring best practice for students and staff:

- **Social distancing**: Although social distancing is not always possible during shore programs, there is ample space and fresh air at these locations and we use that to our advantage as much as possible.
- **Masks**: All staff and students will wear masks while participating in Project Oceanology shore programs unless 6 ft of social distancing can be maintained.