

Storm Team/Stream Team COVID-19 Protocols:

One of the important services we provide at Padilla Bay is oversight of the volunteer-based fecal coliform monitoring program that provides the county and state with information on contamination of tributaries feeding into Padilla and Samish Bays. This is used as a real-time decision-making tool for closure of shellfish harvests in Samish Bay and also beach access to Bayview State Park. There are multiple shellfish growers in Samish Bay that harvest regularly, including Taylor Shellfish (one of the largest producers of shellfish on the west coast).

An essential part of meeting this business and public health need is our volunteer workforce. These are trained adults who work in teams of 2-3. Some teams are from the same household. Field volunteers enter the lab to access equipment and are indoors for no more than 5 minutes. Field work is done with private vehicles. Equipment is returned to the lab when finished. Some field volunteers stay in the lab after sampling to process the samples and test for turbidity and fecal coliform. Some lab volunteers come just to process samples that have been collected by other volunteers. This can be done alone or in teams of 2. Processing samples take approximately 1 hour. Fourteen different teams of 2-3 people use the volunteer lab.

Please contact your coach and team mates and do not attend a scheduled sampling or lab event if within the last 14 days, you have had close contact, without the use of appropriate PPE, with someone who is currently sick with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (Note: Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for more than 10 consecutive minutes) or if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms that you cannot attribute to another health condition:

- Fever** or chills (please take your temperature before Stream/Storm Team event)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**Fever is defined as a temperature at or above 100.4°, a significant indicator that your body is fighting illness.

New This Year

Special mandates have recently been put in place in 2021 for state agencies, including the Padilla Bay Research Reserve. Starting Oct 18th, any volunteers (and staff) on site at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve will need to be fully vaccinated. This may affect which volunteers work on teams that use the PBNERR lab or come to pick up a monitoring kit. Vaccination

documentation will be requested. The Skagit Conservation District currently does not have a vaccination mandate, however, face masks and 6' social distancing are required.

Field Procedures

1. Before leaving your house or prior to arriving to pick up your monitoring kit or to meet up with your teammates, please take your temperature and wash your hands 20 seconds with soap and water or sanitize hands.
2. Teammates should all drive separately in their own personal vehicle to each monitoring station **unless** from the same household or fully vaccinated (and wear mask).
3. Face masks are required to be worn while sampling in the field.
4. Avoid touching eyes, mouth and face.
5. Maintain 6-feet of physical distancing.
6. Please limit to just one person if possible, when dropping off collected samples at the Padilla Bay lab or a Wastewater Treatment Plant. **If you are on a team that drops samples off at a Wastewater Treatment Plant, your team coach will advise you of any special protocols you will need to be aware of.**
7. Sanitizer and disposable gloves will be provided in your monitoring kit. Please dispose of gloves and mask (if disposable) in garbage if used. Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or sanitize hands.

Laboratory Procedures (Padilla Bay Research Reserve)

- Locate additional PPE and sanitizing equipment on the lab counter near the telephone if needed. At a minimum, gloves, paper towels, soap and container to make a warm soap water solution, a bottle of 70% ethanol. The spray bottle with sanitizing liquid will remain on the table in the entrance.
- Be hyper-cautious and avoid any area or work that puts you at physical risk.
- Restrict your use of shared facilities (restroom, lobby space) to the greatest extent possible.
- Avoid or minimize touching all surfaces if possible and assume common surfaces may carry the virus (i.e., restrooms, door handles). Wash hands frequently.
- Wear a cloth mask regardless of vaccination status and open the window when there are 2 or more people in the volunteer lab. (Always wash your hands immediately after taking off gloves and or touching your mask)
- Stop work, leave the area, reassess the situation, and check in with your coach if you cannot maintain safety, physical distancing or if an unknown or unnecessary health risk is present.

Clean-up after lab use

- Clean and sanitize handheld gear (tub handles, sampling pole, clipboard, pencils, meter, cooler, etc.) with gel, alcohol or wipes after use. In most cases soap and water wash will also work (i.e., clean the equipment without damaging it). Allow equipment to fully dry between uses.

- Clean and sanitize any benchtop spaces, equipment or lab ware touched when in the lab (turbidity meter, fecal coliform counting magnifier, sterilizer door, cabinet doors, fridge, faucets, water spigots, air/suction control handles). When using the spray bottle of sanitizing liquid, the sanitizer should be sprayed on the surface and then wiped for even spread, but not to dry. The sanitizer must be left to dry on the surface for at least 10 minutes.
- Wash hands before placing sterile equipment in cupboards.

Note: These requirements are subject to change to stay in compliance with State and/or County Covid-19 protocols.