

## **Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc. Motor Vessel NAMA0 COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to ensure the safety of personnel while working aboard Motor Vessel NAMA0 during research surveys led by the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc. (LWRC). Guidance is drawn primarily from the Canadian Coast Guard National SOP for COVID-19, specifically [NSOP 518](#) and [NSOP 505](#), and additional measures are included that pertain specifically to the work being conducted on Lake Winnipeg. Provincial public health orders and restrictions will be adhered to.

This document is intended to guide LWRC field operations and complement the SOP for fieldwork operations of participating science member agencies. If there are any discrepancies between SOPs, they will be addressed prior to the commencement of the survey.

### **Immunization Requirement**

Due to the nature of a ship-board workplace, the LWRC requires that all personnel, science and ship's crew, be fully immunized against COVID-19 as defined by the Province of Manitoba's Orders under the *Public Health Act* (August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021), below.

INTERPRETATION: WHEN A PERSON IS FULLY IMMUNIZED

For the purposes of these Orders, a person is considered to be fully immunized against COVID-19 if

(a) they have received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine for COVID-19 or two doses of any combination of those vaccines within a 16-week period and at least 14 days have passed since they received their last vaccine dose; or

(b) they have received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine and at least 14 days have passed since they were vaccinated.

In the event this requirement cannot be met, each case will be evaluated individually.

### **Requirements Prior to Departure**

All on-board science personnel are required to:

- exercise caution outside of the workplace to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19;
- participate in a briefing and review of this SOP;
- complete the Provincial pre-screening tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>; and
- sign the LWRC's COVID-19 Release of Liability form (Appendix A)

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidelines

The following guidelines are recommended while working aboard M/V NAMAQ. The LWRC has provided appropriately placed sanitizing stations and signage within the workplace. It is the responsibility of the participating science agencies to provide the training and appropriate PPE to their employees.

| Scenario  | Technique                           | Mask          |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Prior to boarding the ship<br>Conducting fieldwork alone<br>ECCC lab (one designated science personnel only)<br>Hold lab (one designated science personnel only)<br>Assigned accommodation                    | Hand hygiene                        | None required |
| Mess (while eating)<br>Engine room<br>Loading/unloading equipment outside<br>Common transit areas (fore and aft decks)  | Hand hygiene<br>Physical distancing | None required |
| Wheelhouse<br>Mess (while not eating) & Galley<br>Common areas (i.e. photocopier)<br>Workboat<br>Conducting fieldwork with assistance<br>Loading/unloading equipment inside<br>Labs (if more than one person) | Hand hygiene<br>Physical distancing | Mask          |

### Accommodation

The M/V NAMAQ requires a crew of nine and can accommodate up to seven science personnel on overnight passages. Under normal operations, the Captain, Chief Engineer and Cook each have private accommodations while the remainder of the ship's crew and science personnel have paired accommodations.

Overnight accommodation on board the ship is not required for a number of personnel while based out of Gimli Harbour. However, all personnel require a berth from Pine Dock northwards or while docked at Victoria Beach in the south basin. With the immunization requirement and the above guidelines, the LWRC has deemed it reasonable to resume paired accommodation for those requiring a berth. The appropriate level of cleaning and disinfection will be carried out by the occupant(s) of the room only.

## **Bridge**

A maximum of three crew members will be permitted at one time on the bridge—Captain, Chief Officer and Helmsman, or other such configuration as deemed appropriate by the Captain. Disinfection of the wheel and other touch points such as binoculars, chair handles etc. is required between shifts and between users, as well as at the end of the workday.

## **Mess and Galley**

With the exception of the Cook, masks are required by all personnel while in the mess and galley.

No personnel other than the Cook is allowed in the galley except deckhands to deliver supplies requested and required by the Cook. Meals will be served at the galley entrance where the Cook will also provide condiments as requested to minimize touch points.

Meals will take place in shifts of three people maximum at one time in the mess to maintain physical distancing. Once a meal is consumed, appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the area and surfaces occupied and touched is required by the occupant.

## **Common Areas**

Personnel passing through common areas, such as the accommodations area where the photocopier is housed, or the fore and aft decks, do not require a mask provided they are in transit and physical distancing can be maintained.

In the event of a more prolonged stay, a mask is recommended if inside (photocopying, donning foul weather gear) but not if outside provided physical distancing is possible. Touch points should be wiped down by the user after use (i.e. photocopier).

## **Field Sampling**

Physical distancing must be maintained during field sampling and sharing of equipment should be avoided. If sampling equipment is shared, proper cleaning and disinfection must take place prior to use by another individual.

Use of the workboat will be limited to four occupants (two crew, two science) who must wear masks and maintain maximum distance from one another. Crew will have pre-assigned, designated roles for the duration of the trip. Loading and unloading of scientific equipment will be carried out before the workboat is launched and solely by the science personnel who will be using the equipment.

## **Cleaning and Disinfection**

In general, cleaning and disinfection will follow NSOP 518 *Cleaning and Disinfection Routine of the Workplace Cleaning* (see link above) where relevant and appropriate, such as frequently touched surfaces in commonly used areas, as they are the most likely to be contaminated.

These include doorknobs, handrails, light switches, cabinet handles, faucet handles, tables, countertops, electronics, among others.

Of particular relevance in NSOP 518 are the following sections:

- Procedure for cleaning/disinfecting (p. 5)
- Procedure for preparing bleach solutions for efficient disinfection (p. 6)
- Procedure for low to intermediate-level cleaning/disinfecting with a 1:50 solution (p. 7)
- Procedure for high-level cleaning/disinfecting with a 1:9 solution (p. 9)

### **Illness**

In the event an individual is symptomatic during a research cruise, he/she will be separated immediately, and procedures outlined in NSOP 505 *Seagoing Personnel* (see link above) will be followed.

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## Appendix A

### Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Assumption of Risk

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have agreed to participate in the fall survey of Lake Winnipeg aboard the Motor Vessel NAMA0 commencing the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (the "Fall Survey").

I agree to be bound by and follow the Standard Operating Procedures with respect to COVID-19 established by the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Inc. ("LWRC").

I acknowledge and accept that there is a risk that I could be exposed to COVID-19 while participating in the Fall Survey.

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Fall Survey, I agree to release LWRC, its officers, directors, employees, agents and volunteers (the "Releasees") from any and all causes of action, claims, demands, requests, damages or any recourse whatsoever in respect of any personal injuries or other damages which may occur or arise as a result of exposure to COVID-19 during my participation in the Fall Survey.

I do hereby acknowledge and agree that notwithstanding the generality of the foregoing, I declare that I shall not commence litigation or otherwise seek to recover damages or other compensation against the Releasees based on any action, claim, demand, request, loss or any recourse whatsoever arising from any potential or actual exposure to COVID-19 while participating in the Fall Survey and that the Releasees may rely on this release of liability, waiver of claims and assumption of risk as a defence to any and all such claims, damages, causes of action, or recourse or liability.

I have reviewed this release of liability, waiver of claims and assumption of risk document and acknowledge that I fully understand the terms as set out above and that I am signing this document voluntarily.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_, Manitoba this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness (name and signature)

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