

# COVID-19 Policies Overview: Forfar Field Station

*Updated August 2020*

This document is a shortened version of the new IFS policies and meant to help manage expectations for all students, parents, administrators and any other guests visiting [Forfar Field Station](#). Safety remains the number one priority of IFS. We look forward to providing an excellent hands-on, experiential learning experience for all students!

An IFS employee will act as the “[Clean and Pristine](#)” Manager, overseeing the Health and Safety Program and adhering to the required government approved mandates coming from The Bahamas Health Ministry of Health. All procedures put in place meet or exceed the Government Health and Safety Protocols.

## **General Policies**

- Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, focusing on all high-touch surfaces.
- Housekeeping staff received special training in disinfection/sanitation procedures and are working increased hours.
- Sanitation of boats and motor vehicles before and after guests are taken out on trips.
- Hand sanitizer, sanitation wipes, masks, etc. available on station for all guests and staff.
- When guests arrive, they will receive a small group training and demonstrations on behaviors and precautions guests should abide by to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- All guests are required to bring masks and hand sanitizer for the duration of their stay. If someone forgets, masks and hand sanitizer will be made available to them.
- All IFS Employees received an in-depth COVID Training, including how to correctly identify and promptly report any observed symptoms of COVID in students or staff.
- IFS Employees will wear a face covering at all times when in contact with guests and coworkers within 6 feet distance. Employees will receive a daily health screening.
- IFS Educational staff will remain with the same group of guests each day for the duration of their stay.
- Guests will be encouraged to bring their own snorkel equipment, but borrowed gear will be available and will have received a thorough cleaning with an alcohol-based disinfectant.

## **Lodging/Facilities**

- Lodging will be at a reduced capacity. Guests will be placed in cabins by family units or small student groups to reduce the number of students in each cabin.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each cabin for guests.
- Class sessions and lectures will be held outside if possible and weather permitting.
- No laundry services available to guests.
- Reduction of available seating in classroom and lounge areas to promote social distancing.
- There will be one communal bathroom in the lodge designated for staff and one designated for guests.
- Lodge will close a half hour early to disinfect every night.
- Staff members and guests will wear cloth face coverings during activities indoors when physical distancing is not maintained.

## **Kitchen/Dining**

- All staff will follow the [FDA Food handling & COVID guidelines](#).
- Kitchen staff will receive appropriate training, cleaning guidelines, and PPE.
- Kitchen staff will always wear face masks and gloves.

- Tables will be spread out ensuring 6 ft distance between family groups/guests. Decals on floors six feet apart to denote where to stand while in line.
- Educational staff will serve plated meals to each guest with sanitized hands, mask, and gloves. For in-field lunches, educational staff will serve plated lunch to each guest with sanitized hands, mask, and gloves.
- Staggered meal times for each group with staff eating separately. Outside dining is encouraged when weather permits.

### **Transportation/Public Interaction**

- Employees and guests must wear face coverings coming from the airport.
- 50% boat capacity to allow spacing between guests. Masks not required.
- The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV2 is not waterborne. There is no current evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water.
- Employees and guests must wear face coverings when traveling in motor vehicles. Windows may be open, air conditioning on non-recirculation mode.
- Travel to Red Bays is prohibited until further notice. No Basket Weaving Workshops until further notice. No Thursday night Dinner Out until further notice.
- Non-essential visits to stores/supermarkets/clinics/schools will be prohibited.
- Essential errands run by one or two assigned staff members, follow [CDC tips for running errands](#).
- Guests and staff must follow all Bahamian rules in effect at the time of their visit including wearing masks when in public areas or in vehicles (fines and/or jail time can be enforced) and adhering to curfews.

### **Suspected COVID Cases**

- One cabin will always be free to be used as an emergency quarantine area.
- Individuals suspected to have COVID-19 based on the [CDC assessment](#), will be isolated and follow the protocol set by The Ministry of Health. A call to the clinic will be placed for next steps. If a guest or staff member does not require immediate clinical evaluation, the individual will be isolated until appropriate return to home transportation is arranged.
- Parents/legal guardians will be immediately informed about any potential contact their child may have had with suspected or confirmed cases or are experiencing any symptoms.
- There is no hospital on Andros but there are two clinics staffed with nurses and a doctor on call about 30 min in either direction from Forfar. IFS requires all guests to have international medical insurance coverage, [read this blog post for more information](#).