

## CHACHA Science Team COVID Transmission Mitigation Plan

This document covers intended best practices and requirements for science team members during the period from integration and flight testing in Laramie, Wyoming, through the full CHACHA campaign, and return to home organizations. The intent is to define procedures and behaviors that will contribute to the protection of both the science team members and the community members we interact with during the course of the project, with respect to minimizing COVID transmission.

### A. Basic principles of engagement

1. All team members will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with boosters obtained, if eligible. Proof of vaccination for all CHACHA Science Team members will be provided to UIC-Science.
2. All team members will wear KN95, KF94, or N95 masks when inside buildings and other enclosed spaces, such as aircraft, except when in personal lodging rooms.
3. We will engage with UIC-Science to ensure that all CHACHA Science Team members adhere to local Utqiagvik COVID management protocols and requirements.

### B. Travel to and arrival in Utqiagvik

~~The NSF protocol for travel to and quarantining in Utqiagvik must be followed by all participants:~~

<https://battlearcticgateway.org/sites/default/files/hse/covid/072021/COVID%20Travel%20Procedures%20Alaska%20Utqiagvik%2017%20Jul%202021%20Shortened%20Quarantine.pdf>

Due to the challenges of the timing of the CHACHA test flights at the University of Wyoming in late January, we will implement the following plan that provides specific exceptions to the NSF protocol, with alternative mitigation procedures, as described:

1. 14-day Strict Social Distancing prior to travel will be followed, with exceptions for the following activities: 1) CHACHA test flights at the University of Wyoming Flight Facility (followed by travel back to home institution), 2) home institution lab visit to pack last-minute items identified during test flights, and 3) PCR testing.
  - a. CHACHA science team members at the University of Wyoming for test flights during this time period will wear KN95, KF94, or N95 masks at the University of Wyoming Flight Facility and aboard the King Air aircraft. These team members will undergo PCR testing on days 3 and 5 after arrival back at their home institution. This testing will be in addition to the required PCR testing 3 days prior to departure to Utqiagvik. These team members will spend at least 7 days at their home institution social distancing prior to travel to Utqiagvik.
  - b. KN95, KF94, or N95 masks will be required for activities #2-4 during the 14-day social distancing period prior to travel.
2. Due to reduced flights in Feb. 2022 due to COVID-19, Alaska Airlines flight itineraries with <8 h layovers are currently not possible for all CHACHA science team members. Due to the Wyoming King Air Jan. test flight schedule, it is not feasible to quarantine in Anchorage, in addition to Utqiagvik, prior to the start of the CHACHA research flights. Therefore, we will book the most reasonable flight

Clarification  
2/7/2022:  
Eating will  
only occur  
outdoors  
and in  
personal  
lodging  
rooms

Revision 1/31/22:  
For individuals with  
a positive PCR test  
within 3 months  
prior, a medical  
letter of recovery  
and a negative  
antigen (RAPID,  
rather than a PCR)  
test will be  
required.

itinerary possible, minimizing layover time. ~~, and, for any flight itinerary with a layover >8 h, we will provide this flight itinerary to UIC Science for approval prior to booking.~~ During such layovers, relatively unoccupied areas of the terminal building will be sought out for the duration of the stop.

3. During travel to Utqiagvik, CHACHA science team members will be well hydrated prior to travel, refrain from eating on airplanes, and eat in isolated locations far from other individuals during layovers (not in restaurants), minimizing time without masks on.
4. ~~During quarantine in Utqiagvik, KN95, KF94, or N95 masks will be worn at all times (including in quarantine common areas), except in individual rooms. Eating will only occur in individual rooms during quarantine.~~

C. Working in the Utqiagvik hangar, on the aircraft, or with the University of Wyoming team

1. N95 masks will be in-use at all times, except when their use interferes with the need for cold weather gear (for example, for individuals who are actively moving the aircraft inside/outside when the hangar doors are open). Close contact work between the CHACHA Science Team and University of Wyoming crew will be limited as much as possible, and will only occur when all individuals are fully masked.
2. The CHACHA Science Team will not share vehicles with the University of Wyoming crew.
3. N95 masks will be required at all times on the aircraft.
4. All CHACHA science team members who will be working on the airplane on a given day will take a rapid OTC/DTC COVID test, prior to arrival at the hangar. In the event of a positive rapid test, the individual will follow item G1 below. If a PCR test is positive, the individual will quarantine as per item G2 below.

D. Other activities

1. KN95, KF94, or N95 masks will be worn at all times indoors, in the BARC, at Iḷisaḡvik College, and at the Cakeeater Shed.
2. Masks will not be required outdoors (when cold weather face coverings should be used for low temperature safety), but individuals will social distance, as possible.

E. Interacting in Utqiagvik

1. Limiting group-size to 2 individuals for shopping outings, e.g., to the grocery and hardware stores (with masks in all indoor spaces, including vehicles)
2. Coordinated planning to minimize number of shopping outings
3. KN95, KF94, or N95 masks will be worn whenever in the Utqiagvik community

F. Emergency aircraft layover in Deadhorse

1. N95 masks will be worn at all times except in individual rooms. Interactions with others will be minimized in Deadhorse.
2. Upon arriving back in Utqiagvik, any CHACHA science member who overnights in Deadhorse will be required to take daily OTC/DTC COVID tests for the following 7 days.

G. Procedures for those who are sick, or have had close exposure (e.g. touching hands, or exposure without masks) to those who have tested positive (in violation of our policy)

Revision 1/31/22: In accordance with revised CDC guidelines, individuals with a positive PCR test will isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the testing date. A negative antigen (RAPID) test and improving symptoms will be required to leave isolation.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

Clarification  
2/7/22:  
current CDC  
guidelines no  
longer  
require  
quarantine  
for  
vaccinated  
individuals  
who have  
had close  
contact but  
are not  
experiencing  
symptoms.

1. Individuals who experience onset of any flu-like symptoms will immediately report to UIC-Science personnel, submit a PCR test and quarantine in the Nanuqs Den dormitory quarantine wing until a negative COVID test has been received.
2. Isolation for positive cases will use Building 42, the UIC-Science isolation facility. As long as the COVID-positive individual can care for themselves (i.e., personal hygiene and preparing meals) they will remain in Building 42 until a negative PCR test has been received. If the COVID-positive individual is unable to perform basic self-care, they will be sent to Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital. Under no circumstances will UIC-Science staff enter Building 42 if it is occupied by a COVID-positive individual.
3. Any individual who has had “close contact” (as defined by the CDC) with a person known to be COVID positive ~~will quarantine in the UIC-Science Nanuqs Den quarantine wing for 10 days. On day 5 of quarantine the individual will take a PCR test~~ **at least 5 days after close contact with a positive COVID-19 individual and will watch for symptoms for at least 10 days, and will not break quarantine until a negative test result has been received.**
4. Consistent with current CDC guidance, for fully vaccinated individuals (i.e., all CHACHA science team members) with no COVID-19-like symptoms and no known exposure, routine COVID testing is not necessary.

H. Review of this document

The authorized representatives of the academic institutions receiving the awards for the CHACHA project must review and approve this plan and communicate that approval in writing to the project participants. UIC-Science Arctic Safety Specialist and NSF Arctic logistics (Frank Rack) will also review this plan and the written institutional approval.

I. Informed Consent

1. It is our commitment that all CHACHA science team members have read this document and understand and commit to abiding by the terms and intent.
2. Violations of these rules will be discussed at the next science team meeting and actions deemed necessary by the PI science team will be required to remedy the situation and may result in removal from the field project.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand all the requirements for and intent regarding minimization of the risks of COVID transmission during the CHACHA campaign, and hereby attest to my commitment to abide by the requirements outlined in this document.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_