

Rules for working or staying at Tjärnö marine laboratory during Corona pandemic

These rules are an adjustment to the general operating procedures at the Tjärnö Marine Laboratory put in place to reduce the spread of infection during the coronavirus pandemic. They apply from the 21 August 2020 until further notice. Updates will be made if necessary, according to any changes to Gothenburg University or the Swedish Public Health Agency regulations and guidelines.

These rules apply to both those who are permanently employed on Tjärnö and those who are visiting the station for teaching or research.

Exceptions to these rules can be granted by the station manager (Kerstin Johannesson), station coordinator (Helen Veerman), the kitchen manager for questions about the dining room (Anette Hansen), or the captains of R/V Nereus (Karl-Henrik Gustafsson or Christian Torstensson) for decisions about trips with the research vessel.

General measures

- Increases to the space available to increase physical distance between people on station. For example, all accommodation is now in single rooms, there is greater distance between chairs in the dining hall and laboratory workstations, there are fixed laboratory workstations whenever possible, the capacity of the auditorium and classrooms has been reduced and specific chairs marked as not available during the pandemic.
- Permanent staff who share offices are encouraged to spread out by making use of otherwise vacant offices or agreeing on a schedule with their coworkers to allow everyone to work effectively while only having one person physically in the office at any time.
- Separation of visitors and permanent staff through the use of separate entrances, different seating times at lunch, and separate toilets. All guests are encouraged to use the toilets in their residence rooms as 'private' toilets while on station
- Some activities simply cannot be carried out during the pandemic, such as full day excursions with groups aboard R/V Nereus.
- Visiting students and researchers are encouraged to minimize physical contact with other people before leaving for Tjärnö. Everyone (who can) should bring their own sheets.
- **Your own responsibility is the most important.** Wash your hands regularly, especially before meals; keep distance from each other; if you are staying in the residences and exhibit any symptoms of illness stay in your room and notify your teacher, course coordinator, or one of the staff on Tjärnö.

Group sizes and specific rules for different activities

Accommodation

Single room accommodation means that we have a limited number of beds available. For specific availability and booking contact Gunilla Johansson at booking.tjarno@gu.se or phone 031-7869637.

Dining room

Our dining room accommodate a maximum of 30 people at a time under the new measures. It is also important that everyone respects the lunch seating times, we now usually have two sessions - one for the visiting group and one for staff. Staff eat 11.45-12.30, and guests 12.30-13.15. Decals with "Keep a distance" are in place to remind everyone to maintain distance while queuing for food. Hand sanitizer and sinks to wash your hands are available at the entrance to the dining room.

The sauna is closed

During the pandemic, both saunas are closed to guests. Only staff who dive have access to the sauna in the dive shed, and those who live long-term in the White dormitory have access to the gym and sauna in the White dormitory.

Nereus (research vessel)

Groups are limited to a maximum of 10-15 people to allow proper space on deck when collecting and working with samples. This may mean that a visiting group must divide activities on the ship into several groups. If extra costs arise due to such a required division, the station will not charge for the increased ship time.

The interior areas on Nereus are small and now limited to a maximum of 3 people at a time belowdecks and one person at a time in the deck lab. There is a toilet, galley, and space to rest if needed belowdecks, but all other activities are done on the open deck regardless of the weather. It is therefore important that all participants have good clothing for an excursion with the ship.

Small boats

The small boats require training provided by Joel White or another staff member. If you need to use the small boats during your stay, contact Joel well in advance. The boats take a maximum number of people for maritime safety reasons; this number is unchanged during the pandemic.

The course laboratories

The two course wet labs now can accommodate only half the number of occupants, which is 16 in the large wet lab and 14 in the small. If necessary, one group can have access to both labs. Book with Gunilla at the reception.

During each course each participant should use the same workstation, the same stereo magnifier, and the same microscope whenever possible. (If sharing of materials is required, there is alcohol available for cleaning.)

There is no specified maximum number of people in the flush rooms used for storage and sorting of organisms. Here, course leaders and participants must take extra responsibility to maintain physical distance and avoid crowding around collected samples.

Classrooms

Tjärnö has an auditorium which during the pandemic takes at most 30-35 people well spread out. There is also a larger classroom that now takes 12 (-15) participants depending on the arrangement of the chairs and desks. There are several different spaces for groups of 4-6

people to work in (the library, the student lounge, the computer room). For individual work, there is a desk and Wi-Fi in all bedrooms.

We are happy to help and answer questions before planning your stay on Tjärnö.

Helen Veerman (coordinator)

Gunilla Johansson (bookings)

Anna-Karin Ring (laboratories)

Karl-Henrik Gustafsson, Christian Torstensson (captains R/V Nereus)

Joel White (small boats)

Anette Hansen (kitchen manager)

If Covid-19 should become directly present on station it is important not to lay blame, but instead to work together and help keep each other safe. Bad luck and chance can play a large role in the spread of disease and it is vital that we focus on solutions.

Kerstin Johannesson / Station Manager