

COVID-19 Protocol Document - ESCAPE

RAF Airborne Project Office

Record of Changes

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Summary of Changes</u>
06 May 2022	Baseline
17 May 2022	Include COVID policy from other participating institutions

Assumptions

For the purpose of this safety document, the following assumptions are made:

- 1) All ESCAPE-Convair participants will follow the COVID-19 related guidance and procedures described in this document and those in effect in the Colorado, and Houston, TX areas.
- 2) All participants are fully vaccinated and/or have met their organization's exemption requirements as of the campaign start date.
 - a) Fully vaccinated will be defined as two weeks after the final shot required by the CDC for a given vaccine. It does not include booster shots.
- 3) There is no provision for coordinating a medical response to a COVID-19 infection among project personnel. This will remain the responsibility of the participant and their home institution. Site logs will be maintained by RAF to help UCAR/HESS with contact tracing.

This document will be revised if there are major changes, approved by UCAR/HESS, to protocol guidance based on variants, infection rates, vaccination rates, efficacy, or other information related to COVID-19.

ESCAPE-Convair Project Summary

ESCAPE seeks to increase the understanding of convective cloud lifecycles and aerosol-convection interactions while addressing a long-standing, observational challenge when it comes to the study of isolated convective cells using inertia-limited radars: the undersampling of their lifecycle both temporally and spatially. The ESCAPE field experiment will be conducted between three institutions: the NCAR/EOL, the National Research Council Canada (NRC) and SPEC. The NRC and SPEC will deploy with their aircraft Convair-580 and LearJet to conduct all airborne aerosol measurements from 27 May to 26 June, 2022. The NCAR/EOL will be

supporting project logistics with project management in the field. The deployment will be based in Sugar Land, Texas in the Greater Houston area.

Schedule: The operations will run from 27 May 2022 to 19 June, 2022, with a possible extension to 26 June if the flight hours are not utilized.

Personnel: It is expected that 3-5 NCAR staff will be involved from EOL and CGD. In addition, it is expected that approximately 15-25 participants from universities and agencies outside NCAR will be utilizing the operations center hosted by NCAR/EOL.

The participants will be working between different facilities such as the Convair-580 aircraft from the National Research Council Canada; and the operation center hosted by NCAR/EOL, so combined project guidelines for the participants will become necessary.

The participating institutions for ESCAPE-Convair are NCAR, the National Research Council Canada, SPEC, Michigan Tech, Texas Tech, Stony Brook, University of Oklahoma and Colorado State University.

Payload: ESCAPE-Convair does not use NCAR aircraft. NCAR participation in the payload on the Convair is limited to providing HOLODEC and operational support of the CVI.

General Rules and COVID Protocols

COVID-19 Guidance: During the entire project period, the participants who utilize the operation center and the NCAR staff will be required to continue to comply with UCAR guidelines regarding safety and risk management regarding COVID-19. All personnel will be required to report illness to the RAF Project Manager (PM) for ESCAPE, who will then activate the COVID-19 Response Plan to determine the next steps.

All personnel are responsible for providing their own mission specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE, as defined below) for COVID-19. EOL will provide masks for participants to use in the operations center. All participants will be required to fill out the sign-in sheet each day they are in the operations center.

- Personnel will wear face masks at all times when in any shared space, regardless of vaccination status.
- Six feet of distance between personnel is required when possible.
- Frequent hand washing will be encouraged.
- Daily personnel site logs/sheets will be available at the operations center. All personnel working in the operations center will be required to sign in each day to help with contact tracing should the need arise.

- COVID testing will not be required by UCAR as part of ESCAPE. Should people want to be tested there are [free sites](#) in the area. NCAR employees are also able to use Passport Health for COVID testing if they choose.
- Prior to beginning work, a self-health assessment is required. Personnel will not enter any of the ESCAPE workspace (ops center, hangar, and aircraft), and will immediately contact the RAF Project Manager if any of the following symptoms are present:
 - Fever over 100.4 or chills
 - Skin rash
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Persistent cough
 - Decreased consciousness or confusion of recent onset
 - Headache
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - New loss of taste or smell
- All personnel should be prepared to trace all contacts and identify areas where work was performed in the previous 48 hours.
- Personnel should refrain from touching eyes, nose, mouth and face with unwashed hands.
- Any contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or showing symptoms must be immediately reported to the RAF PM.
- All personnel must also try to avoid high risk activities during the project period.

COVID-19 Response Plan: If any member who utilizes the operation center exhibits symptoms or comes into contact with a person suspected of having COVID-19, all project activities will be put on hold and the RAF PM will activate the UCAR COVID-19 response protocols.

- Contact UCAR Health Environment and Safety Services (HESS) for UCAR employees.
- Contact EOL/RAF Facility Manager and EOL Director's Office.
- Contact the Convair and Lear Jet project leads and PIs to implement a coordinated response across the entire team
- UCAR/HESS or PM/PIs/crew leads will conduct contact tracing if deemed necessary to determine quarantine and decontamination requirements.
- The criteria for resuming project activities will depend on a variety of factors. These will be evaluated and communicated by UCAR/HESS during the contact tracing period.

Deployment Procedures

Travel to Houston : All participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the deployment locations for project support.

Requirements for travelers entering Houston, TX can be found at: <https://www.houstonhealth.org/services/disease-prevention/covid-19> These requirements may change based on the evolving pandemic situation. A summary of the current regulations will be

sent out prior to deployment, but participants are encouraged to keep up to date on the latest information.

General Guidelines: While traveling and in the field project participants are expected to follow all local COVID rules and regulations regarding masking, distancing, and self checks. Texas is fully open for business, however project participants are encouraged to read the information on the [official TX website](#).

Healthcare: If healthcare is required in Houston/Sugar Land the following options are available:

1. Healthcare:
 - a. St. Luke's Health Sugar Land (~8 minutes from project hotel & airport) 1317 Lake Pointe Pkwy, Sugar Land, TX 77478
 - b. Memorial Hermann Sugar Land Hospital (~11 minutes from project hotel & airport) 17500 W Grand Pkwy S, Sugar Land, TX 77479

2. Free COVID testing Locations:

Getting tested at Houston Health Department multi-service centers is FREE, and does not require proof of residency, citizenship or insurance. Some health department testing partners require insurance and ID. Contact your insurance provider to make sure the testing partner is in network.

Hiram Clark Multi-Service Center
3810 Fuqua St, 77045
Tues., Thur.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wed., Fri., Sat.: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
(~18 minutes from Residence Inn Sugar Land)

Meetings: There will be a small operations center at the hotel for forecast, flight planning, and science meetings. While the operations center is open for in-person meetings, project participants are strongly encouraged to participate remotely. To remain properly socially distanced, the capacity of the operations center will be set at 15 people.

- All participants are **required to wear a well-fitted mask** when working around/in Convair-580; and in the operations center.
- NCAR/EOL will provide masks for participants (if needed) to use in the operations center
- All participants are required to sign in to the Site log when using the operations center to help with contact tracing.
- Working and interacting within participants' own working group is strongly recommended.

I certify that I have read and understand the above protocols for the ESCAPE field campaign and agree to abide by these protocols for the duration of my time involved in this project. Failure to comply will be reported to my institution.

Print Name

Affiliation

Signature

Date