

Crumbling Concrete Sampling from Homeowner's Basements COVID-19 Safety Plan

Responsible Faculty Member/Principal Investigator

James Mahoney (Program Manager 3) (Director of Sampling Services)
Alex Bernier (Program Manager 1) (Assistant Director of Sampling Services)

The Faculty Member/Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring compliance with this Plan. Failing to follow this plan will result in restrictions up to and including immediate shutdown of the offending research lab or area.

Location(s) to which this Safety Plan applies: Specify all applicable Campus/Building/Floor/Room Numbers

- Basements of Homeowners Throughout the North-Central and North-Eastern Parts of Connecticut

Describe the steps that will be taken to minimize personnel density, allow distancing, and reduce the chances for transmission. These steps must be consistent with CDC guidelines, state guidelines, and applicable University policies, including the [UConn Working Alone Policy](#) and [UConn Health Working Alone Policy](#).

These steps should take into account:

- 1) The full range of areas where people may be present, such as the lab, project space, and areas with common equipment;
- 2) Coordination with other teams or labs also using the space;
- 3) Distancing during transportation for field research, etc.

Consider steps including, but not limited to: staggering work schedules, being present in the lab/site only when necessary, otherwise continuing telework/stay-at-home, increasing physical space between individuals, barriers, limiting in-person meetings, limiting the number of people per lab bench or work area, and utilizing face coverings or masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Human-to-Human Exposure

- Staff traveling to the home where sampling is to occur will travel in separate vehicles to get to the site.
- Typically, two UConn staff members will be conducting the sampling although it is possible that three staff members will be present for training purposes or for difficult sampling scenarios.
- All sampling personnel will wear a face covering when on the site and maintain appropriate physical distancing.
- Homeowners will be required to wear face coverings while UConn staff are in their houses.
- No UConn staff will be allowed to participate in the sampling if they are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, have had any known close contacts with individuals that are presumed or have tested positive for COVID-19, traveled to an Affected State or Country in the last 14 days, or are under quarantine.
- 24 Hours or less before sampling is scheduled to occur, a member of the UConn sampling staff will contact the homeowners to screen for the following:
 - COVID-19 symptoms
 - Any household members in quarantine or isolation

- Travel to an Affected State Country in the last 14 days (travel defined as spending greater than 24 hours in an Affected area).
- Reminder that household member(s) must wear face coverings while UConn personnel are in the house.
- These answers will be documented as part of the sampling file.
- Upon arrival at the home, the UConn staff will again confirm that the status of the residents in the home are free from COVID-19 symptoms and have no known exposure risks – the responses to these questions will be documented as part of the sampling file. They will also be reminded of the need for face coverings while UConn personnel are present.
- Whenever possible, the sampling team will access the basement through exterior accessways. If not feasible, UConn personnel will move directly from door to basement access, maintaining a minimum of 6 foot distance from homeowner, and will not loiter, limiting presence in living area of house/property.
- As practical, all parties (UConn and Homeowner) will maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet between each other.
- Sampling protocol will be planned to limit time spent in the basement, as feasible.
- If feasible, exterior windows/doors will be opened during the sampling event.
- Any exchange with home or property owner will be contactless.
- The sampling team will disinfect any surfaces they have come into contact in the house at the conclusion of sampling.
- All waste and debris generated during the sampling event will be collected and carried off site.
- Hand sanitizer will also be available for UConn personnel to use prior to building entry, before and after contact with homeowner belongings, after leaving the building, etc.
- For contact tracing purposes, the contact tracing app will be activated on cell phones of the people entering people's homes and contact information will be maintained for at least one month after conducting the sampling in the house foundations.

Working Alone

- There should be no instances of any sampling occurring in a working alone scenario.

Describe the process that will be used to clean common touch points and equipment that will not be cleaned by Housekeeping.

Include a listing of all touch points/equipment, what cleaning product/solution will be used, frequency (at least daily), and who is responsible. This process must be consistent with CDC and state guidelines.

Examples of common touch points and equipment to consider include:

All touch points during the sampling process will be wiped clean with a disinfectant found on EPA's List N: Disinfectants for use against SARs-CoV-2 - or a 70% Alcohol Solution. Should neither of these options be available, or a bleach solution prepared by the sampling team in accordance with CDC recommendations and EHS guidance may be substituted.

Touch points include, but are not limited to, shared sampling equipment, contact surfaces in the homeowners property (belongings or furniture, door handles, etc).

Additionally all equipment shared between UConn personnel will be disinfected between uses, as well as sample collection materials, and reusable PPE after use.

All waste generated from the disinfecting process will be bagged and carried out by sampling personnel.

Describe the process that will be used to monitor compliance with this COVID-19 Safety Plan, as well as CDC, state, and University requirements related to COVID-19 in the workplace, including personal health monitoring prior to coming to work.

Compliance with this plan will be carried out in several ways

- Daily communication with sampling team and Director of Sampling Services
- Regular monitoring of CDC and University Policies by the Director of Sampling Services to ensure this plan remains in compliance with best practices.
- At the beginning and end of each day, the sampling team intending to work in the field will 'report' their temperature on a clipboard which is hung by the main door within the CAP Lab. The CAP Lab will provide a touchless thermometer to personnel for this purpose.
- If any member of the sampling team is not feeling well, they will not be allowed to conduct the sampling of the concrete.

Specify who will be responsible for monitoring CDC, state, and University requirements related to COVID-19 in the workplace, updating this plan as required, and communicating changes to personnel.

The Director of Sampling Services (James Mahoney) and Assistant Director of Sampling Services (Alex Bernier) shall monitor CDC, State and University requirements related to COVID-19 and will update this plan should recommendations dictate. The program director will ensure any updates are communicated to research personnel.

Specify who will be responsible for ensuring each individual signing below has completed initial and any subsequent required COVID-19 training.

The Assistant Director of Sampling Services (Alex Bernier) will ensure all staff have reviewed this plan, understand their responsibilities as it pertains to this document and will, and will facilitate any COVID-19 specific training as required.

Resources

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[State of Connecticut](#)

[UConn Storrs and Regional Campuses](#)

[UConn Health](#)

Human Resources Related Questions

[UConn Storrs and Regional Campuses Human Resources](#)

[UConn Health Human Resources](#)