

COVID-19 Policies Overview: Forfar Field Station

Updated August 2022

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.
- All IFS Employees received 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 and guests 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

- Staff members and guests will wear cloth face coverings during activities indoors when physical distancing is not maintained.
 - Face coverings are to be worn indoors from 7:00am-7:00pm
- No non-IFS guests are required to wear appropriate masks when in lodge facility

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.

Transportation/Public Interaction

- Employees and guests must wear face coverings coming from the airport.
- Employees and guests may be required to wear face coverings when traveling in motor vehicles. Windows may be open or air conditioning in non-recirculation mode.
- 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 be designated for use 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](#).

Vaccines and Pre-trip Testing

- IFS strongly encourages that all guests be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and up to date with Covid-19 boosters. This recommendation is due to the limited access to healthcare facilities on Andros island as well to limit the spread in the Andros community. Is for your safety and the safety of others that we recommend being vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated individuals are currently required, by The Bahamas government, to secure a negative Covid test within 3 days prior to arriving in The Bahamas. This negative test will need to be presented when you board your flight to Nassau.

FAQs

- What if I develop symptoms or test positive for Covid right before my trip?
 - The CDC recommends that you not travel for a full 10 days after your symptoms started or the date your positive test was taken if you had no symptoms. Travel Insurance is now included in the cost of IFS program fees. Please see the travel insurance policy for what is included.
- What happens if I develop symptoms or test positive for Covid while at Forfar? - See Suspected Covid cases section above.
- When can I travel home if I test positive for Covid while at Forfar?
 - The CDC recommends that you not travel for a full 10 days after your symptoms started or the date your positive test was taken if you had no symptoms. Travel Insurance is now included in the cost of IFS program fees. Please see the travel insurance policy for what is included.
 - We know that staying in The Bahamas may not be feasible. If you are feeling well enough to travel, we ask that you wear an N-95 mask for travel and continue to socially distance yourself from other guests and staff.
 - If you prefer to stay at the field station while you recover, we will do our best to keep you isolated and comfortable if our schedule allows us the space to keep you after your trip. We can also help you find alternative housing if necessary.