

Dear Sea Turtle Patrol Volunteers,

This is our weekly update regarding our upcoming Sea Turtle Patrol and the COVID-19 (Corona virus) situation. As we face these challenging days ahead we hope that everyone is taking precautions for their safety and are staying at home if possible. Let us remind you that nothing is more important than your safety. This is a theme in our annual mandatory training for the Sea Turtle Patrol, we just didn't expect it to be applied like this.

It is clear that things are changing day-by-day and we are in uncharted territory. Joanie and I are currently working on protocols to safeguard everyone's health. Such protocols will include no backpacks for walking patrols and my lab is working on making hand sanitizer for patrollers. However, we have much to work out and we ask for your patience.

Part of these protocols will reiterate what we've mentioned last week. We view the patrols as a self-isolating activity. We will ask that patrols be done alone if possible, but when people pair up we may ask that you pair up with people you know to be healthy. It is quite clear that when on patrol with another that both patrollers will have to practice self-distancing. It's important to maintain a 6 foot distance from others, even on the beach.

Once again we ask that for your safety, the safety of those more vulnerable near to us, and to fellow Sea Turtle Patrollers, we ask that you take precautions to keep yourself healthy in your daily lives.

In case you did not save the past message, please take some time to follow the links down below, education yourself and stay up to date – we've been following the news closely and have still found the links below useful.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/index.html>

<https://www.tamug.edu/newsroom/2020articles/Coronavirus-Update.html>

We admittedly do not have much additional information for you today. What we can say is that there be updates regarding our protocols later this week. Joanie and I will continue to provide timely updates, so please monitor your emails for additional information.

Stay Healthy,
Dr. Christopher Marshall
Joanie Steinhaus