



***Imagining Futures* COVID Safeguarding Appendix**

It is a priority for the *Imagining Futures* project to both reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and safeguard and protect project staff, participants and their families.

All partners and people involved in the project are expected to follow their own national and local health authorities' regulations, guidelines and protocols with respect to COVID-19 and should take every possible precaution open to them to reduce risks. These include the following measures:

- Avoiding face-to-face contact where possible, making use of online platforms to facilitate interaction and discussion;
- Avoiding travel where possible, particularly where it would mean travel which is outside what project participants would normally be doing as part of their everyday lives and other work responsibilities, and especially between low and high risk infection areas;
- Where travel and or face-to-face contact is required, conducting a risk assessment and putting in place all possible mitigations, as listed here, or e.g. avoiding or limiting the use of public transport;
- Avoiding organising the gathering of groups expressly for the purpose of the project. Where possible, face-to-face discussions or workshops should be planned only within social gatherings that are already happening anyway, e.g. by conducting discussions in school sessions, or community groups which already meet;
- Where face-to-face interaction is happening, ensuring that staff and participants know that where they or their households are exhibiting any symptoms of coronavirus, they should self-isolate and not join any meeting face-to-face;
- Keeping face-to-face encounters outdoors where possible;
- Maintaining 2 metre distance between participants from different households, especially if meetings are occurring indoors;
- Ensuring good ventilation where interaction is happening indoors;
- Ensuring there are opportunities to maintain good hand hygiene with washing stations or hand sanitiser being available;
- Ensuring any shared equipment or surfaces that may be touched by multiple people are cleaned regularly;
- Using face coverings or masks, especially indoors;
- Where there may be sustained interaction indoors (greater than 20 minutes) considering the use of screens;
- Using testing facilities if available;
- Taking steps to assess if there may be any participants who are themselves, or have any members of their family who are, particularly vulnerable to a negative impact from developing Covid-19 (due to age, underlying health considerations etc.) and suggesting these people do not participate in any face-to-face encounters, ensuring other ways are found for their participation that does not bring them into face-to-face contact with others; and
- Where international travel is proposed, individual risk assessments will be completed by the employing organisation, in advance of any travel.

For further guidance on COVID-19 safety measures that should apply to your research project supported by *Imagining Futures*, please contact imaginingfutures@exeter.ac.uk