



UC NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM
MAIL CODE 6150, MSRB 520
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-6150
PHONE (805) 893-4127 (NRS Campus Office)

March 13, 2020

Dear UC Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System User,

Although there are no known cases of COVID-19 at UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) or in Santa Barbara County at this time, the University of California is following guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Laboratory of Public Health, and Santa Barbara County Public Health Laboratory. Additionally, more information and updates can be found on the UC Santa Barbara COVID-19 website: <https://ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information>.

The well-being of our community is our highest priority. The UCSB campus [COVID-19 Response Working Group](#) in consultation with public health experts have provided guidance in taking proactive steps to mitigate the potential impact of COVID-19. For all [UCSB Natural Reserve System \(NRS\)](#) sites, the following are effective immediately and through at least April 2020:

- Day-use will be allowed; however, no overnight stays in Reserve facilities, or camping on NRS property, will be permitted.
- Only groups of size that are small enough to maintain a 6 foot social distancing practice will be permitted. Whether such distancing can be made will be evaluated by the Reserve Managers, based on information provided in RAMS applications or via similar official documentation. While on Reserve sites, spacing between Reserve users might need to be greater than 6 feet; individuals may have to utilize Reserve facilities or equipment in shifts to allow for this.
- Individuals who have travelled from (or have been in close contact with individuals from) high risk exposure areas will not be permitted to visit UCSB Natural Reserve System sites until such individuals can provide written assurance to the Reserve Manager of successful self-quarantine for 14 days. High-risk exposure areas include at a minimum those identified by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>), but may also be interpreted by NRS staff to include other regions within the US and elsewhere where the virus is being transmitted throughout the community.

- All prospective users must disclose, prior to being granted permission to enter Reserves, all areas (state, county, city) within and outside of the US from where they (or people with whom they have had close contact) have visited the past 14 days or plan to visit prior to arrival at the UCSB NRS site.
- A current liability waiver must be on file for each individual requesting use, for each UCSB NRS Reserve. Liability by the UCSB NRS is waived for all unanticipated events including the potential for illness symptoms to manifest while on the Reserve site, the potential for evacuation being required for medical attention, and the potential for individuals being stranded if there is emergency geographical containment. The UCSB NRS assumes no liability for these or related outcomes of visitors to the Reserves.
- The UCSB NRS can contribute to community health and safety by using everyday preventive care. The following includes field station protocols to be followed by all users:
 - Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Help keep indoor surface areas clean by wiping them down with disinfectant cleaning supplies multiple times a day (tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, chair handles, toilets, faucets, sinks). Cleaning supplies will be made available at the Reserve.
 - Use a tissue or your elbow to cover a sneeze or cough.
 - Practice social distancing when utilizing all areas of the Reserve.

Note that for [University of California Natural Reserve System \(UC NRS\)](#) Reserves not managed by the UCSB campus, policies may vary. Please reach out to those campuses for guidance specific to those sites. If your trip must be rescheduled, or if you have questions regarding a particular Reserve, please reach out directly to the relevant Reserve Director; contact information is provided below. We would look forward to the opportunity of working with you in the future.

Thank you for your flexibility and support through this time.

Trish Holden, Director, UCSB Natural Reserve System
 Marion Wittmann, Executive Director, UCSB Natural Reserve System

UCSB NRS Reserve Directors:

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve, Andrew Brooks, Email: ajbrooks@ucsb.edu

Coal Oil Point Reserve, Cristina Sandoval, Email: sandoval@ucsb.edu

Santa Cruz Island Reserve, Jay Reti, Email: jayreti@ucsb.edu

K.S.N. Rancho Marino Reserve, Keith Seydel, Email: seydel@ucsb.edu

Sedgwick Reserve, Kate McCurdy, Email: mccurdyk@ucsb.edu

Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves, Carol Blanchette, Email: carol.blanchette@ucsb.edu