COVID-19
GAULT RESEARCH GUIDE 2020

McGill’s Living Laboratory

Gault Nature Reserve
Faculty of Science
Dear Gault Researchers, Students and Staff,

Welcome to summer 2020!

Gault has adopted relatively strict operating procedures, beyond what are required by public health. These measures will help keep you healthy and minimize disruption to research.

Please read this guide carefully prior to your arrival. It contains important information about what you’ll need to bring to Gault and new protocols you’ll be expected to follow this summer.

**Summary:**

- Masks will be required
- You will need to perform the daily self-assessment form through the MINERVA platform
- Many staff members are working remotely
- One person per building
- One person per bathroom
- One person per cooking area
- Eating outside is recommended
- Physical distancing of 2 m
- Hand washing for 20 seconds

For questions regarding this guide? Contact:
David Maneli, Associate director, david.maneli@mcgill.ca or
Martin Duval, Service and Security Manager, martin.duval@mcgill.ca

We can’t wait to see you!

Gault Nature Reserve Staff
COVID-19 measures

The goal of this guide is to enable the continuation of critical research projects while protecting the safety of the individuals conducting the research. The plan focuses on paring operations back to critical research activities, reducing contact within the Gault community, reducing contact between Gault and the larger community, and aggressive hygiene and physical distancing measures.

Importance of Gault’s Operation
Enabling Gault to operate, even on a limited basis, is critical. The loss of field seasons because of the virus threatens to significantly set back important scientific advances. We have scientists at vulnerable career stages for whom loss of a field season could be devastating. Field stations serve as critical infrastructure at the interface between scientists, society, and the environment. As McGill’s largest field stations, Gault is a critical part of the global scientific infrastructure for understanding the world.

Development and Modification of Operating Procedures
Gault’s strategies for operating during the coronavirus have been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Science. Gault staff have developed the operating details within the context of those approvals. As Gault learns more about how to operate safely and effectively within the context of the virus, we will improve these operating procedures. However, some high-level changes are subject to review by the Faculty, and will not necessarily be changed, or changed quickly. Please be patient we are all in this together.

We will do our best to service scientists and undergraduate researchers
We serve scientists and undergraduate researchers. The pandemic limits our ability to offer and support a “normal” field season. In terms of space allocations, we will prioritize research over other activities. Within lodging space allocations, we will allow only McGill researchers for prioritization of space.
New norms, new expectations
Communities all over the world are establishing new norms and new expectations for how we care for each other. Until the pandemic passes, life at Gault will be different. We will wear masks. We will wave from afar rather than greeting each other with bear hugs. Some programs will be online. Some staff will continue to work from home, or maybe stagger schedules in Gault. But some things will not change. Our commitment to researchers and students is unwavering. Through all of this, creating and nurturing an environment of trust and forgiveness is essential. We will not get everything right, and the best way to get through this together will be to trust that we did the best we could at the time.

We’re in this together
If people stay healthy and follow the protocols outline in this guide, everyone will be able to do more this summer. We are each responsible for the health and safety of the Gault community. Asymptomatic carriers are a risk, so even if we “feel fine” or believe we have developed an immunity from prior exposure, we have an obligation to protect our colleagues and friends by following physical distancing and hygiene protocols. If the virus gets to Gault, aggressively reducing contacts is one of the most effective mechanisms to keep it from spreading. Additionally, reducing contacts will minimize how many people will have to go into isolation because of contact with an infected individual.

Safety is non-negotiable
We will follow the recommendations and guidelines issued by public health officials and/or infectious disease experts so as not to expose our staff, students, professors and visitors to unacceptable health risks.

Mental health matters
We know that prolonged isolation is difficult. And we know that summers at Gault are a special time. We welcome Gault community members to try creative virtual and distance ways of connecting. We ask that you proactively reach out if you are struggling, contacting a staff member as well as any friends. We can’t help you if we don’t know you need help.
Face masks
Masks must be worn in all common areas and outside if there is a reasonable expectation of passing within 2 meters of each other. Non-medical masks are acceptable, ideally double layered, tightly woven, and washable fabric. Gault will provide masks for staff, but all other individuals must provide their own masks.

Physical distancing expectations

Individuals shall:
- Maintain at least a 2-meter distance from other individuals, unless research protocols require closer contact, and additional appropriate measures for safety are used (e.g. PPE);
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer after (and if possible, before) contact with common use items (e.g., door knobs);
- Cover coughs or sneezes into the sleeve or elbow, not hands;
- Not shake hands.

Personal hygiene / Handwashing / Hand sanitizer / Cleaning
Gault will offer hand sanitizer in every building though individuals can use their own hand sanitizer. Hand soap will be provided at all sinks. Individuals should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer) every time they enter a building. Cleaning is a shared responsibility; assist Gault cleaning crew by regularly cleaning high-touch surface.

Daily health checks for everyone
As required by McGill University, all employees and students must complete the self-assessment form on the Minerva Platform.

Transportation
All transportation must be accomplished one person per car unless shared by family members or partners or persons from the same household.

Work at low densities but never alone
Confirm your plan for a field buddy with staff.
Housing at the Chalets and Cottage

Upon your arrival
It is important that you arrive during normal business hours (8h00 – 18h00) since we need to provide keys, alarm codes and access cards and other information for your stay at Gault. An envelope will be ready for your pick-up at the gatehouse.

Cleaning
- Please make sure to empty the small bins in the big ones outside (trash, compost, recycling). The big bins (outside) will be emptied on a regular basis by GNR staff;
- It is your responsibility to keep your room and work areas tidy;
- Kitchen area (kitchen, hallways, stairs, and bathrooms) must be cleaned on a regular basis;
- Lodging facilities will remain unoccupied for a period of 48 hours in order to disinfect completely;
- Please ensure that these tasks are done as you will be assigned a room, a bathroom and a kitchen area for your exclusive use;
- Additional cleaning fees at the end of your stay will be charged to your supervisor.

Gatehouse
Between 8 am and closing of the Reserve (at sunset) the gate is open. After closing, you must use your McGill ID card.

General Rules
Smoking is prohibited in all buildings and is also prohibited within a radius of nine metres (30 feet) outside any door
You are responsible for any damages caused to equipment or building.
Prohibited use of candles inside or outside & use BBQ
Prohibited to post temporary road signs
Prohibited to move furniture outside
External fires must be done in the designated fire pit
Prohibited to swim in the lake and bring pets.
**Visitors**
Visits are not allowed due to COVID-19

**Bedrooms**
Bedding is not furnished; most people bring a sleeping bag. Bathroom accessories (towels, shampoo, soap etc.) are not furnished. **The policy for 2020 is one person per bedroom unless shared by family members or partners or persons from the same household.**

**Meals**
Kitchen must be used by one person only and cannot be shared unless shared by family members or partners or persons from the same household. **Eating outside on picnic tables is recommended.**

There is a kitchen with stoves, refrigerators, a microwave oven, toaster oven and coffee maker. There are dishes and pots and pans, including large-capacity utensils to facilitate cooking. We provide dish towels, garbage bags, toilet paper, and dishes soap.

**Washers/dryers**
Only one individual can utilize the laundry machines at one time and only one person should be in the laundry room at a time.

**Security**
Please lock all doors at night.
The last person to leave the building must lock the doors and activate the alarm system.
Check the doors and windows before you leave;
In case of a false alarm, call 514-944-9504;
Report all abnormal or unusual activities or defective equipment;
Discrimination and Harassment
There are many forms of discrimination and harassment, like: Racial, sexual, threat or abuse of authority, etc. Gault Nature Reserve will have absolutely no tolerance to any of those behaviours.

If you are a victim or a witness, you must report the situation as soon as possible. If you are in immediate danger, please call 911.

Your complaint/report will be treated confidentially.
Your contact at McGill is Sinead Hunt, Senior Equity and Inclusion Advisor (SEIA), sinead.hunt@mcgill.ca or (514) 398-6419.

For other resources on McGill’s Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination. Please visit: http://mcgill.ca/harass/

Upon your departure
Return your keys and equipment (any missing key or access card will lead to a 25$ fee)
Please leave your room tidy;
Remove all food from the kitchen and empty the refrigerators;

Accommodation Fees

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Person/night</th>
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<td>1 to 21 night(s)</td>
<td>17 $</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 nights and + (consecutive)</td>
<td>12 $</td>
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To do «sustainable research» some guidelines to follow

**General Rules**
All research and teaching projects must be registered and require the approval of the Executive Committee of the Reserve.

Any research or teaching activity that would threaten the integrity of the mountain ecosystem is forbidden. Disturbances to the ecosystem are not allowed. Experimental manipulations have to be done locally and they must not involve long-lasting effects on the ecosystem.

The environment must be returned to its natural state on completion of the project. Please, remove flags, stakes and similar debris at the end.

All experimental manipulations must be localized and must not have any long-term effects on the ecosystem.

**Rules specific to the Preservation Sector**
The use of the Preservation Sector, which is closed to the general public, should be restricted largely to research involving only occasional visits and Non-destructive sampling, mostly for the long-term monitoring plots or field experiments requiring minimal chance of human interference.

Research will not be allowed if it conflicts in any way with preserving the integrity of the mountain’s ecosystem.

**Rules specific to the Public Sector**
Research and teaching use are appropriate throughout the Public Sector, but should be conducted so as not to interfere with public enjoyment and nature study.

Students and researchers must always be willing to take the time to respond to public inquiries about their work (by always respecting physical distancing measures).

**And finally...**
Your research contributes to a better understanding of the mountain. Managers of the Reserve can use your results to apply better management decisions.

Consequently, please give a copy of any publication resulting from research done at the mountain to: david.maneli@mcgill.ca.

**Thank you for your collaboration**
Emergency

Emergency 9-9-1-1
Gault emergency 514-398-3000
Gault 24h number 514-944-9504

Phone

There is only one telephone per chalet or in the cottage. It is available but preferably please use your own means of communication. Please make sure to wash your hands after use. You will have to use a CALLING CARD for long-distance calls.

Gault Nature Reserve Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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