



COVID-19 Shared Housing/Congregate Facility Guidelines

Big Thicket National Preserve Field Research Station & Learning Center and Brammer House Saratoga, Texas

Date: Revised January 1, 2022

The following Guidance applies to staff, contractors, or other BTA guests/invitees for Day Use and for registered Overnight Use (“Shared Housing Participants”) that are performing “essential” business operations utilizing the Brammer House and Field Research Station & Learning Center (FRSLC). The facilities are owned by the Department of Interior (Big Thicket National Preserve), located in Hardin County, Saratoga, Texas. The Big Thicket Association is responsible for the daily operation and availability of the facilities for use by individuals and reserves the right to deny/allow access for use based on compliance with the established guidelines below.

This Guidance is intended, to the extent possible, to mitigate safety risks related to the day use and shared overnight housing arrangements that may be required to conduct business operations, while acknowledging that the optimum way to avoid exposure to the disease is to shelter-in-place and/or to maintain separate and independent living arrangements.

This Guidance remains in effect throughout the period when the facilities remain in a “soft close” and may be extended, replaced, modified, or supplemented by new or additional guidance.

Overall Facility Use

(Applies to the Field Research Station & Learning Center & the Brammer House)

If any individual has displayed any symptoms associated with COVID-19 or has been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive in the past 14 days, they are prohibited from utilizing the facilities.

All visitors/guests will be provided a copy of these guidelines for their review and acknowledgement. Academic leaders/group leaders cannot sign on behalf of their party.

Signage will be placed inside and outside the facilities to remind all individuals of standard health and social practices to mitigate safety risks of COVID-19. Signage will be reviewed prior to posting by NPS staff (Marty Noguees CDSO & Chief of Maintenance and Chief of Interpretation Megan Urban of Big Thicket National Preserve). See links at the end of this document for signage recommendations. Use of face masks and social distancing is recommended while inside the facilities



Guests will self-monitor daily for any signs or symptoms as defined in the CDC Guidance and respond accordingly.

If a visitor/guest has a reason to believe he/she might be infected they should report immediately to their leader/supervisor and inform the staff of the Big Thicket Association.

Accommodation Preparedness

Facilities should go through disinfection before arrival of individuals.

There will be a minimum period of **72 hours** allowed between separate parties use of the facilities.

A minimum 14-day supply of cleaning/disinfectant supplies and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will be supplied by the Big Thicket Association. BTA's cost recovery/charge includes securing these items for each facility. Items to be available at each facility include:

- Disinfectant wipes/spray*
- Paper towels*
- Garbage cans and bags*
- Dishwashing Liquid
- Hand soap*
- Hand sanitizer (minimum of 60% alcohol content)
- Tissues*
- Face Masks
- Thermometer

*All items noted with an asterisk are mandatory per the CDC and OSHA Guidelines

Use of the Brammer House for Day Use Only

All individuals accessing the facilities will follow local county (Hardin County, Texas) and state guidance for response to COVID-19.

- Masks covering the face, including nose and mouth, are recommended be worn in common areas.
- Use social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
- Avoid close physical contact with others.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol content when you are using the bathroom or kitchen facility.

Use of the common space (living room) in the Brammer House will be limited to **4** individuals at any one time.

Use of the kitchen space in the Brammer House will be limited to **2** individual at any one time.

Use of the restroom in the Brammer House will be limited to **1** individual at any one time.



Kitchen Use Brammer House

Visitors are encouraged to bring pre-prepared food items/sack lunches and beverages, and disposable serving/dining ware (plates, bowls, utensils/cups, napkins & condiments) to limit use of the kitchen facilities.

If meals are served during day use, it is recommended to be sack lunches or pre-packaged meals per person with disposal dining ware (plates, napkins, utensils, cups, & condiments).

Use of Field Research Station & Learning Center for Day Use Only

All individuals accessing the facilities will follow local county (Hardin County, Texas) and state guidance for response to COVID-19.

- Masks covering the face, including nose and mouth, are recommend to bebe worn in common areas.
- Use social distancing (stay at least 6 feet away from others).
- Avoid close physical contact with others.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, our use hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol content when you are using the bathroom or kitchen facility.

Use of the classroom space in the Field Research Station & Learning Center will be limited to **25** individuals at any one time.

Use of the kitchen space in the Field Research Station & Learning Center will be limited to 4 individuals at any one time.

Use of the restroom in the Field Research Station & Learning Center will be limited to **2** individual at any one time.

Kitchen Use in FRSLC

Visitors are encouraged to bring pre-prepared food items/sack lunches and beverages, and disposable serving/dining ware (plates, bowls, utensils/cups, napkins & condiments) to limit use of the kitchen facilities.



Overnight Use of Field Research Station Learning Center & Brammer House

Sleeping Arrangements - FRSLC

Overnight separate sleeping accommodations will be allowed.

A maximum of **4** people will be permitted to use the Brammer House.

A maximum of **10** people will be permitted to use the dormitory rooms at the Field Research Station. Two additional persons may use the private sleeping space adjacent to the common area.

Visitors/guests are responsible for bringing their own kitchen linens, towels, bedding, and pillows.

Prior to departure overnight guests will be responsible for flipping mattresses over to the opposite side and flipping from head to tail.

Restrooms and Bathing Facilities - FRSLC

Only **1** individual should be using the restroom/bathing facilities at a time.

Each individual will be responsible for disinfecting high touch/communal surfaces after each use.

- High touch/Communal Surfaces Include:
- Faucets
- Toilets
- Door Handles
- Counter Tops
- Mirrors
- Light Switches

Toilets should be closed before flushing.

Kitchen and Dining Area

Minimize the number of people conducting food preparation, cooking, and serving.

Guests should practice social distancing during mealtimes.

Visitors are encouraged to bring pre-prepared food items, beverages. All kitchen items for food preparation and consumption should be washed immediately after each use.

Individuals will be responsible for disinfecting high touch/communal surfaces including:

- Faucets
- Appliances



- Countertops
- Cabinet and Drawer Handles or Areas Where One Typically Would Use to Open a Drawer or Cabinet
- Light Switches

Common Areas

Individuals will be responsible for disinfecting high touch/communal surfaces including:

- Tabletops
- Door Handles
- Furniture Arms/Handles
- Light Switches
- Wall Thermostat

Washer & Dryers

Individuals are asked to bring their own bath linens, kitchen linens, bed linens, blankets, and pillows to avoid using the washer and dryer. For extended stays, guest can use the washer & dryer in the FRSLC or Brammer House.

The following links/websites can be referenced to for general information and specific guidance. Check back regularly for updates.



Emergency Order for Hardin County Texas from Judge Wayne McDaniel's Office, Lumberton, TX

<https://cityoflumberton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19-Hardin-County-Emergency-Order-1.pdf>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Personal and Social Activities)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/personal-social-activities.html>

Texas Department of State Health Services (Home Page)

<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx#protocols>

Texas Department of State Health Services (Employers and Outdoor Events)

[file:///C:/Users/wledb/Downloads/AllEmployers%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/wledb/Downloads/AllEmployers%20(2).pdf)

Texas Department of State Health Services (Overnight Youth Camp Operators)

[file:///C:/Users/wledb/Downloads/OvernightYouthCampOperators%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/wledb/Downloads/OvernightYouthCampOperators%20(1).pdf)

Signage for Exterior Doors of Brammer House & Field Research Station & Learning Center

<https://www.calpaclab.com/osha-notice-safety-sign-for-the-health-and-safety-of-one-another-face-mask-required-each/acu-mppa836va?sku=ACU-MPPA836VP&msclkid=15e1c78ead81130e944098fb7597bf24>

Signage for Installation-Inside Interior Brammer House and Field Research Station & Learning Center

<file:///C:/Users/wledb/Downloads/WhatToDo-ENGLISH.PDF>